

Military Resistance 14H9



“My Warning To The Police Is That They Must Stop Using Force Against Civilians, Otherwise We Will Soon Take Up Arms To Defend The Masses,’ Said The Air Force Commando”
Soldiers, Police Reportedly Joining Zimbabwe Protests

28.8.2016 African News Agency-CAJ News

A flight air commando from the Manyame Airbase outside Harare expressed disappointment at not receiving his salary on Friday. The officer said they were also affected by rampant corruption.

Zimbabwe seems on the verge of a revolt by uniformed forces amid reports that some unpaid rank and file members have joined mass protests demanding the resignation of President Robert Mugabe and his administration.

The defence force leaders are credited with keeping Mugabe in power since independence in 1980 but ordinary officers are frustrated by failure to pay their salaries, for the umpteenth time, sparking an unprecedented move to protest.

Officers speaking to CAJ News on condition of anonymity expressed solidarity with the protesting masses, pointing out they also were not exempt from the economic crisis besetting the country.

“We have families to look after, so the protests that you are seeing here setting Harare alight have involved some of us,” said a soldier.

Zimbabwe has simply run of currency, a few years after it shelved its worthless Zimbabwe dollar which at the country’s peak was one of the most lucrative currencies.

Ironically, security personnel have responded heavy-handedly to the protests, incurring widespread condemnation. Police have arrested 87 people in connection with last week’s violent protests.

“My warning to the police is that they must stop using force against civilians, otherwise we will soon take up arms to defend the masses,” said the air force commando.

In a separate interview, an officer with the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) said he was no longer taking orders from his superiors when it came to arresting civilians suspected of instigating violent protests. “Despite being law enforcers, we know corruption is the root cause of these problems,” he said.

More protests are scheduled for the major cities of Harare and Bulawayo this week.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Taliban Storm District In Eastern Afghanistan: “Solamal’s Plea For Reinforcements And The Failure Of The Afghan Government And Military To Provide Support Has Become All Too Common”

August 27, 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. [Excerpts]

The Taliban took control of the district of Jani Khel in the eastern Afghan province of Paktia yesterday after laying siege to the district center for more than two weeks.

Both Afghan officials and the Taliban confirmed that Jani Khel fell to the Taliban late last night. On Voice of Jihad, the Taliban's official website, the group claimed that it "stormed the enemy installations in Jani Khel district of Paktia province including district headquarters, police station and all its security and combat posts."

"Mujahideen took over the district and overran 10 combat posts as well as police checkpoints, raising Islamic Emirate's white flag," the Taliban continued.

Additionally, it claimed it killed "48 enemy personnel consisting of Arbakis (local militia), police and soldiers of ANA," or Afghan National Army, and seized "15 armored tanks and 16 armored fighting vehicles," and destroyed an additional six armored personnel carriers. The Taliban's claims cannot be confirmed; the group routinely exaggerates the number of casualties inflicted on Afghan forces.

The governor of Jani Khel confirmed the Taliban's claim that it did overrun the district.

"Our district was surrounded by Taliban for almost five days," governor Abdul Rahman Solamal told Reuters. "Hundreds of them attacked our check posts overnight. If we do not retake it soon then Taliban can easily move from one province to another and can undermine security in at least three provinces."

Solamal warned on Aug. 10 that the district was in danger of falling to the Taliban.

"The clashes are still ongoing two kilometers from the center of Janikhel," he told TOLONews. "If supporting troops are not sent into Janikhel as soon as possible, the district will fall into the hands of the Taliban."

Solamal's plea for reinforcements and the failure of the Afghan government and military to provide support to districts under the threat of Taliban assaults has become all too common.

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

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

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contact@militaryproject.org

POLICE WAR REPORTS

NYPD Cops Fired On Unarmed Black Teen: “Charles Was Hit Three Times — Twice While Surrendering At The Front Door Of His Apartment”

26 Aug. 2016 by Arturo Garcia, rawstory.com [Excerpts]

Newly-released video undermines New York City police’s claim that a teenager was threatening them with a toy gun when they fired at him 16 times during a December 2013 encounter, the New York Daily News reported.

The footage shows Keston Charles, who was 15 years old at the time, running from officers, then limping, then putting his hands up with no sign of the BB gun he was reportedly carrying, which he allegedly took from a friend during a neighborhood fight and used to threaten another boy.

Charles served 18 months of probation in connection with the incident, and is reportedly trying to obtain his GED.

“I was scared for my life. I was trying to get away,” Charles said of the encounter. “I never been shot at before.”

Charles was hit three times — twice while surrendering at the front door of his apartment building in Brooklyn. Charles is now suing Officer Jonathan Rivera over the incident.

An attorney for the city of New York, Elissa Jacobs, said that Charles “did not put his hands up to surrender before any round of shots,” a statement apparently contradicted by the footage.

According to court documents, officials said since Charles was only hit three times, it demonstrated “how fast he continued to move and that the threat to public safety had not been abated.”

Black Family Gets Robbed. Husband Calls Police. Police Shoot The Husband. Robber Escapes.

“Yet Again, Without Fully Understanding The Facts Of What They Were Seeing, American Police Fired Upon A Man Unjustly”



Police officials investigate the home where a police officer shot a homeowner during a robbery attempt. (photo: Vic Ryckaert/IndyStar)

24 August 16 By Shaun King, New York Daily News [excerpt] & Michael Anthony Adams, Justin L. Mack and Holly V. Hays; Indianapolis Star

Early Tuesday in Indianapolis, an African-American woman was being carjacked in front of her home in her working class neighborhood. She ran back in the house, told her husband, who is also black, and they called the police to report the robbery.

That seemed to be the right and safe thing to do.

As the police pulled up, the husband, who was later identified as 48-year-old Carl Williams, opened the garage to their home and was immediately shot in the gut by police.

He, of course, was not the robber. In fact, police have yet to even say if they caught the robber. Since they dusted the car for fingerprints, it appears that the actual man committing a crime got away and the man who wanted to protect his wife and family was instead shot and currently fighting for his own life in the hospital.

They claim they believed he was the robber and that because he had a firearm of his own, he was shot in self-defense. Officials identified the officer who shot Williams as nine-year veteran cop Christopher Mills.

Police still don't know what the nine-year Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department veteran said, if anything, to an armed east-side homeowner before shooting him once in the stomach early Tuesday.

"I think that's really crazy. What do we have, trigger-happy police officers out here now?" asked Angela Parrot, who lives in the neighborhood told the Indy Star.

Speaking to the Daily News, several reporters and neighbors all confirmed that the husband who was shot was black, but said that they do not yet know the ethnicity of the officer who shot him.

Whatever the case, the violent encounter should help illuminate the very real fears so many black families have when calling the police. This family needed help. They wanted to report a crime in their neighborhood. The husband wanted to protect his wife.

These are all very basic rights we have, but day after day we see that gun rights don't really apply equally to African-Americans.

Merely reaching for his wallet got Philando Castile shot and killed in his own car. Having a gun in his pocket caused police to shoot Alton Sterling repeatedly in his back and chest.

Now this.

We do not yet know the extent of this man's injuries, but a bullet to the mid-section can wreak havoc. Yet again, without fully understanding the facts of what they were seeing, American police fired upon a man unjustly. It's just not right.

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

Nothing has more revolutionary effect, and nothing undermines more the foundations of all state power, than the continuation of that wretched and brainless régime, which has the strength merely to cling to its positions but no longer the slightest power to rule or to steer the state ship on a definite course.
-- Karl Kautsky; The Consequences of the Japanese Victory and Social Democracy

Arriving At The My Lai Massacre Site



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: May 13, 2016

Subject: Arriving at the My Lai Massacre Site

Full Disclosure

Four of us arrived at My Lai on April 5, 2016. From the left, is Sandy Kelson, Brian Wilson, and Becky Luening.

For me, this was the second time I have been to My Lai, the first time in April 1994. When we arrived this time, only a couple of other people were there. During the entire time that we were there, we were pretty much the only people on the grounds. I think for all of us, the quiet and solitude was a welcome relief.

No other memorial I have ever visited has the profound impact that My Lai has on me. I think that is true because this historical site is cloaked in secrecy, as far as the United States is concerned. For me, it represents national shame, and that powerful energy is a metaphor for the entire Vietnam War. If I had not worked on my unfinished anger and grief over the past twenty-two years, visiting My Lai again would have caused me tremendous fear. When I came back in 1994, I had to be hospitalized for a week because of severe depression.

For many Americans, especially those who have been politicized, visiting My Lai can still cause pain, because the U.S. has continued to be involved in war after war. Since the end of World War II, the U.S. Government has bombed 30 countries. So, the My Lai's have never stopped.

**Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam**

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

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

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

The Notion That Assad Is The Lesser Evil Is An Obscenity:

“When People Went Into The Streets Demanding A Better Life, The Regime Denounced All Of The Protesters As Al Qaeda Terrorists And Responded With Horrific Violence”

“Leaked ISIS Documents Show That ISIS Is Closely Collaborating With The Assad Regime”

Meanwhile, the United States and Russia are drafting a new constitution for Syria, in consultation with the Assad regime.

The Syrian people aren't at the table.

This seems reminiscent of the 1916 Sykes-Picot agreement by the British and French imperialists to divide up the newly defunct Ottoman Empire.

August 25, 2016 By Dave Anderson, Boulder Weekly

Earlier this year, scholar and journalist Idrees Ahmad penned a scathing piece on Medium.com entitled “Aleppo is our Guernica — and some are cheering on the Luftwaffe.”

Aleppo is a crucial rebel stronghold in Syria and it is under relentless assault by Russian bombers taking off from Iran as well as troops of the Syrian army, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and the Lebanese Hezbollah.

Ahmad was comparing the fate of Aleppo to that of Guernica, a Basque town bombed in 1937 by Hitler's Luftwaffe for three hours in support of Francisco Franco's fascist forces in Spain. Over 1,600 people were killed. Pablo Picasso immortalized this episode of the Spanish Civil War in a painting and Pablo Neruda wrote poems about it.

“Now imagine a different response to Guernica,” Ahmad said. “Imagine people applauding the bombings, reproaching the victims, and slandering the witnesses. If you can imagine that, then you know Aleppo.”

He wasn't referring to the neo-Nazis and far right parties of Europe or the American hipster “alt-right” white supremacist fans of Donald Trump. Those people do indeed support the devastation of Aleppo. They are allies of Syrian dictator Bashir al-Assad and Russian president Vladimir Putin.

No, he was referring to prominent liberals and leftists who consider Assad to be the lesser evil in a conflict with opposition rebels who they believe are all Islamist fanatics.

That is how Assad has portrayed the war from the beginning.

This is a lie.

In 2011, an Arab Spring rebellion began in Syria as a non-violent movement involving people of diverse political, ethnic and religious backgrounds. They called for political freedom, social justice and dignity.

This was after the Assad regime introduced severe “free market” reforms, which produced widespread economic misery with 48 percent youth unemployment in 2011. Sixty percent of the population was below the age of 24.

When people went into the streets demanding a better life, the regime denounced all of the protesters as Al Qaeda terrorists and responded with horrific violence.

In a Machiavellian move, the regime released the worst Islamist extremists from jail while going after the non-violent and non-sectarian protesters with ferocity.

Later, a study showed that the regime and ISIS avoided fighting each other.

Recently, Britain’s Sky News published leaked ISIS documents that show that ISIS is closely collaborating with the Assad regime.

The notion that Assad is the lesser evil is an obscenity.

This is a brutal dictatorship which, according to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, is responsible for 95 percent of the civilian deaths, and which the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria has indicted for “the crimes against humanity of extermination, murder, rape or other forms of sexual violence, torture, imprisonment, enforced disappearance and other inhuman acts.”

The regime uses rape systematically as policy; and a report by a team of war crimes investigators documented “industrial scale killing,” with up to 11,000 killed “systematically” in detention.

The regime’s main ally, Russia, has been accused by Amnesty International of “egregious” war crimes, including the deliberate targeting of civilians and aid workers.

The UN Commission of Inquiry has also accused the regime of using starvation as a weapon of war and for the “deliberate destruction of health care infrastructure.”

The Berlin Social Science Center conducted a survey of Syrian refugees who have fled to Europe. A majority of the Syrians think Assad is a greater threat than ISIS and said they won’t go back to Syria while Assad is still in power.

A majority said a no-fly zone would allow more people to stay in the country. The vast majority said they feared Assad’s barrel bombs (improvised metal barrels packed with

explosives and scrap metal), which Amnesty International has said are responsible for large numbers of civilian deaths.

The majority of Syrians said Assad's military response to peaceful demonstrations was the leading cause of the conflict.

Isn't it time we listened to the people of Syria?

The revolutionaries haven't given up within Syria.

Ahmad writes — in an article in Dissent magazine — that in Syria, “society has shown remarkable resilience, despite the constant attrition of barrel bombs, starvation sieges, mass detention, torture, and rape. In liberated areas across the country (and, secretly, in regime and Islamic State-controlled areas) close to 400 local councils have been established, appointed through a form of direct democracy, functioning in practical, non-ideological terms, catering to basic needs such as water, electricity, waste disposal, and healthcare.”

Meanwhile, the United States and Russia are drafting a new constitution for Syria, in consultation with the Assad regime.

The Syrian people aren't at the table.

This seems reminiscent of the 1916 Sykes-Picot agreement by the British and French imperialists to divide up the newly defunct Ottoman Empire.

Where is the U.S. left and the peace movement? Strangely enough, some people are actually giving tacit (even overt) support to the Assad regime. Fortunately, there is a growing movement to support the Syrian people's struggle. The Committee in Solidarity with the People of Syria helped organize the “International Solidarity Hunger Strike” for Syria' to pressure the U.N. to allow humanitarian groups to bring food to besieged areas. Solidarity activists in the U.K. and Code Pink in the U.S. gathered thousands of signatures on petitions to “Drop Food, Not Bombs.”

We need a movement for a peaceful and just end to the conflict.

1915: World War I

“The Struggle Against The Government That Conducts The Imperialist War Must Not Halt In Any Country Before The Possibility Of That Country's Defeat”

March 29, 1915, V.I. Ulyanov, Sostial Demokrat [The writer used the pen name “Lenin” to keep the government from terrorizing his family. Excerpts]

Some of the means employed to fool the working class are pacifism and the abstract preachment of peace.

A propaganda of peace at the present time, if not accompanied by a call to revolutionary mass actions, is only capable of spreading illusions, of demoralizing the proletariat by imbuing it with confidence in the humanitarianism of the bourgeoisie, and of making it a plaything in the hands of the secret diplomacy of the belligerent countries.

In particular, the idea of the possibility of a so-called democratic peace without a series of revolutions is deeply erroneous.

The struggle against the government that conducts the imperialist war must not halt in any country before the possibility of that country's defeat in consequence of revolutionary propaganda.

The defeat of the governmental army weakens the government, aids the liberation of the nationalities oppressed by it, and makes civil war against the ruling classes easier.

ANNIVERSARIES

Honorable Anniversary: August 28, 2008



Iraq Veterans Against The War, Denver [www.ivaw.org/]

“Soldiers In Uniform Began The Four-Mile March To The Pepsi Center In Downtown Denver To Protest The Iraq War”

[From GI Special 6H20: 8.29.08]

The thing that stays with me is the sight of those troops looking worried but determined in the face of police force and possible public hostility, trying to make their statement for peace, and how, at the last moment, the whole, huge crowd of civilians had joined them, lifting up their little march and transforming it into an enormous, uplifting show of support.

August 28, 2008 By Ruth Conniff, The Progressive & By Patti Thorn, Rocky Mountain News (Colorado) & Ivaw.org/ & By Paul A. Anthony, Rocky Mountain News [Excerpts]

It started as a modest sized march.

Two squads of 25 IVAW members each formed up outside the venue and began marching to the Pepsi center.

From the Rage Against the Machine concert at the Denver Coliseum, about 150 soldiers in uniform began the four-mile march to the Pepsi Center in downtown Denver to protest the Iraq War.

The squads were led by members in dress uniforms and combat uniforms, with thousands of supporters marching behind them in support.

The group of mostly young people walked behind a banner that said: “Support GI Resistance.”

“Support GI Resistance”

Though the event, co-sponsored by the anti-war group Tent State University and Iraq Veterans Against the War, was unpermitted, the parade proceeded peacefully.

Behind the troops, who marched calling cadence and chanting antiwar slogans, came a larger group in civilian clothes, cheering and waving signs, and growing larger and larger as the marchers wended their way through the downtown.

Wearing T-shirts and stickers with slogans such as “Arrest Bush” and “Make Out Not War,” they sang rolling chants, Marine- style. “Tell Me What We’re Marching For,” sang one group. “Stop the torture, stop the war,” answered another.



Protesters march behind Iraq Veterans Against The War Wednesday from the Denver Coliseum to the Pepsi Center after a concert by Rage Against the Machine. Tim Hussin: The Rocky Mountain News

People lined the streets to watch, most approvingly.

As the marchers wound their way through the neighborhoods west of the coliseum, they found solidarity with a group of Latinos holding up an anti-war sign and cheering them on.

“Si, se puede!” shouted some young marchers. “Yes, we can!”

Not everyone was as respectful.

From the balcony of an apartment complex, a man yelled at the throngs of protesters to move on. “Don’t come back here,” he said.

But one protester had the last word: He suggested the man join the Army.

As they drew near the heavily guarded convention center, cops in riot gear lined the street, and helicopters buzzed overhead. At an intersection, the group stopped facing squad cars with lights on and a phalanx of black-clad police.

“We can go on here or not,” one of the march’s organizers told the troops through a megaphone. The march was unauthorized and it was unclear whether the police intended to have a confrontation.

She seemed to be trying to calm everyone for a moment, pointing out that the Denver police so far have not been “prone to violence.”

The march continued, and the civilians bringing up the rear cheered.

It was quite a spectacle: the soldiers in dress uniform and fatigues, and the cops in riot gear watching them from the sidelines.

The soldiers chanted:

“Everywhere we go
People want to know
Who we are
Where we came from.
We are the veterans
Iraq War veterans
Antiwar veterans
Pissed-off veterans”

At an intersection, the group stopped to read a letter to Barack Obama asking that he agree to three core principles: the immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq, full and adequate health care for all returning U.S. service members, and reparations to the Iraqi people.

The letter also upbraided the Democratic Party for their “initial and continued” support for the war.

The police presence intensified. I passed a cop videotaping the marchers and a marcher in a green “copwatch” vest videotaping him right back.

Over the long course, from the outskirts of town into the denser downtown, the energy from the crowd seemed to build. The marchers chanting had a hypnotic effect.

“It’s alright
It’s OK
Remember MLK
He tried to lead the way
But he was shot one day
early in the morning”

Thus far, the march has been peaceful and well received, as residents along the route sprayed the marchers with hoses and provided water from their homes and businesses.

More and more people joined the march, until, suddenly, looking back as the group crossed a bridge and then paused right outside the Pepsi Center, you could see several thousand people in a line stretching as far as the eye could see.

As the group passed into the perimeter of the convention hall, the police presence grew more threatening.



Members of Iraq Veterans Against The War (IVAW) march in downtown Denver, leading several thousand activists towards The Pepsi Center. (Photo: Rocky Mountain News)

“Hey, those ones have masks,” someone pointed out. A group of police in gas masks were pulling on thick gloves and grabbing their batons. A white van with police in black flak jackets hanging off it rolled alongside the marchers.

The feeling of the whole, thousands-strong group was moving. “It’s beautiful,” one marcher said, looking back at the crowd in the late afternoon sun. Joey Minicucci, 18, of Littleton, noted that his brother was in the military and would soon be sent to Iraq. That was one of the reasons he was going to the march.

Anne Hill, of Montrose, had other reasons. “I’m marching because it seems to be the last vestiges of our free speech and because people have demands and our government’s not listening,” she said.

The march came to a standstill at the perimeter of the Pepsi Center around 6:30 p.m., at which time the veterans attempted to have their statement delivered to Obama.

Tension with police seemed to escalate, until several veterans stepped forward and saluted police. “We are your brothers and sisters in arms,” said one.

“We don’t want to hurt you. We don’t want you to hurt us.”

With that, the standoff melted away and soon an appropriate aide was contacted. "I figured as long as we kept things peaceful, they would hear us, and they did," said Army veteran Jeffrey Wood.

Nancy Pelosi, meanwhile, was answering tough questions from the founder of Digg on CNN about why the Democrats in Congress have failed to pull the troops out of Iraq.

The thing that stays with me is the sight of those troops looking worried but determined in the face of police force and possible public hostility, trying to make their statement for peace, and how, at the last moment, the whole, huge crowd of civilians had joined them, lifting up their little march and transforming it into an enormous, uplifting show of support.

August 29, 1970: In Memoriam: The Los Angeles Police Murder Ruben Salazar As Thousands Of Chicanos Demonstrate Against The War On Vietnam

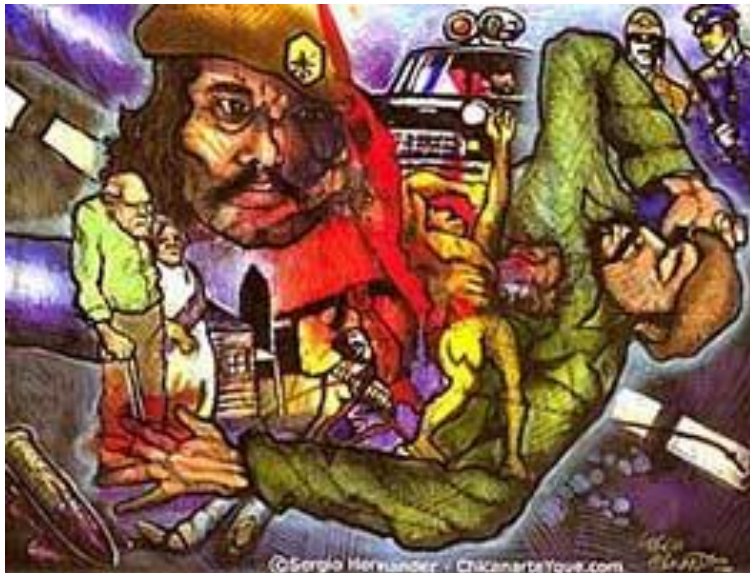


Carl Bunin Peace History Aug 27-Sept 2

Between 15 and 30 thousand predominantly Chicanos (Americans of Mexican descent) gathered in East LA's Laguna Park as the culmination of the Chicano National Moratorium.

It was organized to protest the disproportionate number of deaths of Chicano soldiers in Vietnam (more than double their numbers in the population). There had been more than 20 other such demonstrations across the southwest.

Three died when the anti-war march turned violent. The Los Angeles Police Department attacked and one gunshot, fired into Silver Dollar Bar, killed Ruben Salazar, a Los Angeles Times columnist and a commentator on KMEX-TV (he had been accused by the LAPD of inciting the Chicano community).



RECEIVED FROM READERS

**Making Big Bucks Off Our
Country's Wounded Soldiers:
An Epidemic Of Opiate Addiction
With Thanks From Big Pharma;**

“Soldiers And Vets Were Dying At Astonishing Rates From Accidental Or Deliberate Overdoses”

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Veteran & Military Initiative Organizing Committee, & Phil Gasper, who sent this in.]

August 25, 2016 by Ann Jones, TomDispatch [Excerpts] Ann Jones is the author most recently of *They Were Soldiers: How the Wounded Return from America's Wars -- the Untold Story*, a Dispatch Books original.

A friend of mine, a Vietnam vet, told me about a veteran of the Iraq War who, when some civilian said, “Thank you for your service,” replied: “I didn’t serve, I was used.”

Near the end of his invaluable book cataloguing the long, slow disaster of America’s War for the Greater Middle East, historian Andrew Bacevich writes:

“Some individuals and institutions actually benefit from an armed conflict that drags on and on. Those benefits are immediate and tangible. They come in the form of profits, jobs, and campaign contributions. For the military-industrial complex and its beneficiaries, perpetual war is not necessarily bad news.”

This is what we have yet to take in: today, the U.S. is the most unequal country in the developed world, and the wealth of the plutocrats on top is now so great that, when they invest it in politics, it’s likely that no elected government can stop them or the lucrative wars and “free markets” they exploit.

Among the prime movers in our corporatized politics are undoubtedly the two billionaire Koch brothers, Charles and David, and their cozy network of secret donors. It’s hard to grasp how rich they really are: they rank fifth (David) and sixth (Charles) on Business Insider’s list of the 50 richest people in the world, but if you pool their wealth they become by far the single richest “individual” on the planet.

Dig in to the scams exploiting veterans, and once again you’ll run into the Koch brothers.

It’s no secret that the VA wasn’t ready for the endless, explosive post-9/11 wars. Its hospitals were already full of old vets from earlier wars when suddenly there arrived young men and women with wounds, both physical and mental, the doctors had never seen before.

Even before the post-9/11 vets came home, a phalanx of drug-making corporations led by Purdue Pharma had already gone to work on the VA. These Big Pharma corporations (many of which buy equipment from Koch Membrane Systems) had developed new pain medications -- opioid narcotics like OxyContin (Purdue), Vicodin, Percocet, Opana (Endo Pharmaceuticals), Duragesic, and Nucynta (Janssen, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson) -- and they spotted a prospective marketplace.

They recruited doctors, set them up in private “Pain Foundations,” and paid them handsomely to give lectures and interviews, write studies and textbooks, teach classes in medical schools, and testify before Congress on the importance of providing our veterans with powerful painkillers.

In 2002, the Food and Drug Administration considered restricting the use of opioids, fearing they might be addictive. They were talked out of it by experts like Dr. Rollin Gallagher of the American Academy of Pain Medicine and board member of the American Pain Foundation, both largely funded by the drug companies.

He spoke against restricting OxyContin.

Those painkillers were also dispatched to the war zones where our troops were physically breaking down under the weight of the equipment they carried.

By 2010, a third of the Army’s soldiers were on prescription medications -- and nearly half of them, 76,500, were on prescription opioids -- which proved to be highly addictive, despite the assurance of experts like Rollin Gallagher.

In 2007, for instance, “The American Veterans and Service Members Survival Guide,” distributed by the American Pain Foundation and edited by Gallagher, offered this assurance: “(W)hen used for medical purposes and under the guidance of a skilled health-care provider, the risk of addiction from opioid pain medication is very low.”

By that time, here at home, soldiers and vets were dying at astonishing rates from accidental or deliberate overdoses.

This epidemic of death is in the news almost every day now as hard-hit cities and states sue the drug makers, but rarely is it traced to its launching pad: the Big Pharma conspiracy to make big bucks off our country’s wounded soldiers.

It took the VA far too long to extricate itself from medical policies marketed by Big Pharma and, in effect, prescribed by Congress.

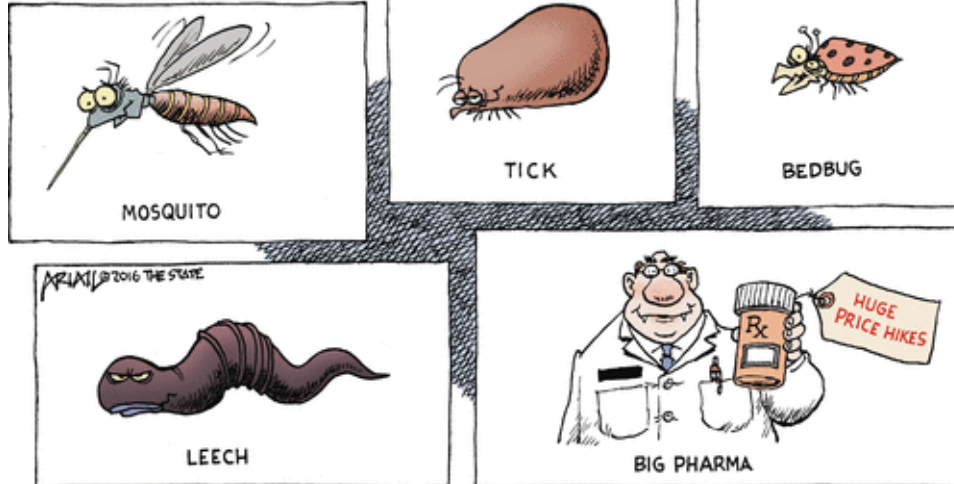
It had made the mistake of turning to the Pharma-funded pain foundations in 2004 to select its Deputy National Program Director of Pain Management: the ubiquitous Dr. Gallagher.

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.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK

A FIELD GUIDE TO
BLOODSUCKERS :

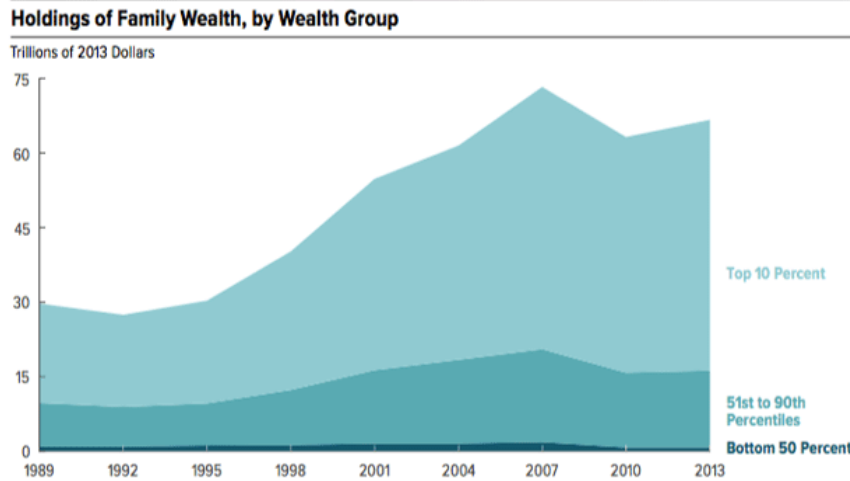


“Since The 1980s There Has Been An Enormous Transfer Of Wealth From The Middle Class And The Poor To The Wealthiest People In This Country”

“Families In The Top 10% Now Hold More Than Three-Quarters Of The Nation's Total Family Wealth”

“Those Within The 51st To 90th Percentiles Owned Less Than A Quarter”

“The Bottom 50% Own Just 1% Percent Of The Total Share”



Cumulative Growth in Average Inflation-Adjusted After-Tax Income, by Before-Tax Income Group, 1979 to 2013



AUG. 23, 2016 by BRYAN SCHATZ, Mother Jones

A new Congressional Budget Office report examining trends in family wealth confirms what most Americans know from experience: The poor are buried in debt, the middle class is stuck, and—shocker—the most wealthy are piling up all the green.

The report, released late last week, puts its findings simply: "The distribution (of wealth) among the nation's families was more unequal in 2013 than it had been in 1989." It lays out some stark figures: Families in the top 10 percent of wealth distribution now hold more than three-quarters of the nation's total family wealth. Those falling within the 51st to 90th percentiles owned less than a quarter of it. Meanwhile, the bottom 50 percent own just 1 percent of the total share.

Putting it into dollars, the CBO notes that the average wealth of the top 10 percent of families was \$4 million compared with \$36,000 for those in the 26th to 50th percentiles.

The wealth of families in the bottom 25 percent was in the red, because of an average of about \$13,000 in debt, up from around \$1,000 in debt prior to the Great Recession. (CBO defines wealth as a family's assets—including business and home equities, other real estate holdings, financial securities, bank deposits, and pension accounts—minus its debts.)

Even though Americans at all levels took a hit during the recession, the top 10 percent has seen its losses return at a much faster rate than everyone else.

Looking at income, the CBO report confirmed that the gap between the rich and the rest has continued to grow. It found that the top 1 percent has seen its average real income grow 192 percent since 1979, compared with a 46 percent increase for middle-income families.

The report also found an increase in debt among the bottom 25 percent of families, due in part to rising student loan debt, which jumped from \$24,000 to \$36,000 on average between 2007 and 2013.

The report was conducted at the request of Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.). "The reality, as this report makes clear, is that since the 1980s there has been an enormous transfer of wealth from the middle class and the poor to the wealthiest people in this country," the former Democratic presidential candidate said in a statement.

"There is something profoundly wrong when the rich keep getting richer and virtually everyone else gets poorer."

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Zionist Soldiers Kill Unarmed
Palestinian For No Apparent
Reason, As Usual:
“An Initial Army Probe Found That
Hamad Most Likely Did Not Pose A
Threat To Soldiers”**

“Soldiers Prevented Red Crescent Medics From Even Approaching Him To Provide Aid”



Iyad Hamad with his wife and children. (Via Quds)

26 August 2016 by Maureen Clare Murphy, The Electronic Intifada & IMEMC

Israeli forces killed a reportedly unarmed Palestinian man at a military post outside the village of Silwad, near the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, midday Friday.

The Israeli army initially alleged that the Palestinian opened fire at a military post, near Ofra illegal colony, before the soldiers shot him, but later retracted its false allegation, and confirmed the man was unarmed.

Eyewitnesses said the soldiers shot Eyad Zakariyya Hamed, 38, and prevented Red Crescent medics from even approaching him to provide him with the urgently needed aid.

The Palestinian died from his wounds before the soldiers placed him in a black bag, and took his corpse away.

Israeli media initially reported that the man was in a car and had fired at soldiers before he was shot dead.

The man was identified by Palestinian sources as Iyad Zakariya Hamad, 38.

The Tel Aviv newspaper Haaretz reported that “An initial investigation by the IDF (Israeli military) stated that a group of soldiers was patrolling the Silwad area when they saw Hamad rush towards another group of soldier standing near the fortified military pillbox. The onlooking forces, from the ultra-Orthodox unit of the Kfir Brigade, fired warning shots, as is protocol. He was shot dead when (he) continued to run toward the guard post.”

Haaretz added that an initial army probe found that Hamad most likely did not pose a threat to soldiers.

According to the paper, army protocol permits soldiers to open fire “if and only if a weapon is identified and the suspect poses a direct and immediate threat.”

The Israeli publication Ynet also reported the soldiers involved in Hamad’s killing were from the ultra-Orthodox Netzah Yehuda Battalion within the Kfir Brigade.

In June 2015, soldiers from the same unit were caught on video brutally beating Palestinian father Shadi al-Ghabeesh in Jalazone refugee camp near Ramallah. Al-Ghabeesh was then shot by Israeli soldiers in December that year and died of his wounds several weeks later.

Last year, soldiers also believed to be from the Netzah Yehuda Battalion filmed themselves shooting an unarmed person in Silwad as he walked down a street in the village.

Soldiers are a constant presence in the area of Silwad to protect Israelis in the nearby Ofra settlement.

Hamad is the 220nd Palestinian to be killed by Israeli uniformed forces or armed civilians since last October, when a new phase of deadly confrontation began, according to Ma’an. More than 30 Israelis have been killed during that same period.

Dozens of Palestinians were fatally wounded during protests or army raids. Many others were killed during what Israel says were attacks, mainly at checkpoints and settlements in the West Bank.

On Wednesday, 24-year-old Sari Abu Ghurab was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers in the northern West Bank who claimed that they had pursued a car from which rocks were being thrown at passing vehicles, hitting the windshield of a military jeep.

The army said that when soldiers stopped the car, Abu Ghurab exited the vehicle and attempted to stab a soldier in the neck and was shot dead.

Photos from the scene, however, show Abu Ghurab’s body still seated in the car which he was driving, contradicting the army’s narrative that he had exited the vehicle before he was killed.

Iyad Hamad is not the first resident of Silwad to be killed during recent months of escalated deadly violence.

Three youths from the village were shot dead in separate incidents after allegedly ramming their cars into soldiers in December and February.

And on Christmas Day last year, Israeli Border Police riddled the body of Mahdia Hammad with more than a dozen bullets, claiming that the 40-year-old mother of four had tried to run them over.

Hammad's husband said that his wife was rushing home from visiting her sister in order to feed their baby when she encountered the Israeli forces soon after the town's regular Friday protests.

Haaretz, along with fieldworkers from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the human rights group B'Tselem, collected testimonies from witnesses of the incident which cast doubt on Israel's claims.

"Border Policemen signaled her to stop, but she continued to drive, slowly. Then they sprayed her car with bullets," according to Haaretz.

"When the car came to a halt, another policeman emerged from the perpendicular street, thrust his rifle into the bullet-riddled car and fired another volley into (Hammad's) head, even though she was certainly dead by then," Haaretz adds.

Human rights groups have condemned Israel's use of deadly force as a first resort in such incidents, saying it amounts to an unofficial shoot-to-kill policy encouraged by Israel's top leadership.

Earlier this year, Patrick Leahy, head of the US Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, urged the State Department to investigate alleged extrajudicial executions of Palestinians by Israeli forces and other "possible gross violations of human rights ... that may have involved recipients, or potential recipients, of US military assistance."

This year the Obama administration offered Israel the largest single pledge of military assistance to any country in the history of the US.

Nearly two years ago in Silwad, a US citizen, 14-year-old Orwa Hammad, was shot dead by Israeli forces.

MORE

Occupation Forces Shoot Five Palestinians During Funeral Of Unarmed Palestinian Killed By Occupation Forces

Israeli soldiers shot, on Friday, five Palestinians with rubber-coated steel bullets, at the western entrance of Silwad town, east of the central West Bank city of Ramallah, during the funeral procession of a Palestinian who was killed by the soldiers a few hours earlier.

Local sources in Silwad said hundreds of Palestinians participated in the funeral of Eyad Hamed, who was killed by the soldiers at noon, at the western entrance of the town, after the army initially claimed “he attempted to attack the soldiers,” and later retracted his false allegations.



Mourners carry the body of Iyad Hamad during his funeral in Silwad village after he was slain by Israeli soldiers on 26 August. (Shadi Hatem / APA images)

The sources added that the soldiers fired rubber-coated steel bullets, sponge-tipped bullets and gas bombs at dozens of Palestinians, and cars, participating in the funeral procession, five Palestinians were injured and many cars were damaged.

Zionist Forces Gas Crowd Attending Palestinian Football Match

Aug. 26, 2016 Ma'an

RAMALLAH -- Dozens of Palestinian football players and fans suffered from tear gas inhalation on Friday after Israeli forces fired tear gas at crowds attending a football match at Faisal al-Husseini Stadium in the village of al-Ram in the occupied West Bank's Jerusalem district

Local sources told Ma'an that Israeli forces fired the tear gas at the stadium as it was filled with some 1,200 fans attending a match between al-Thahiriyah and Shabab Balata in the Abu Ammar Cup.

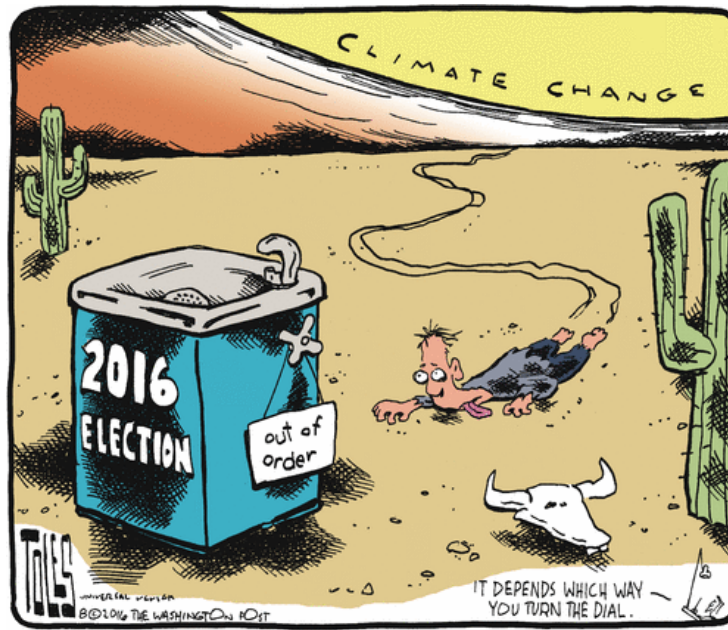
Medics at the stadium treated the injured at the scene, locals said.

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

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and
<http://www.palestine-monitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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