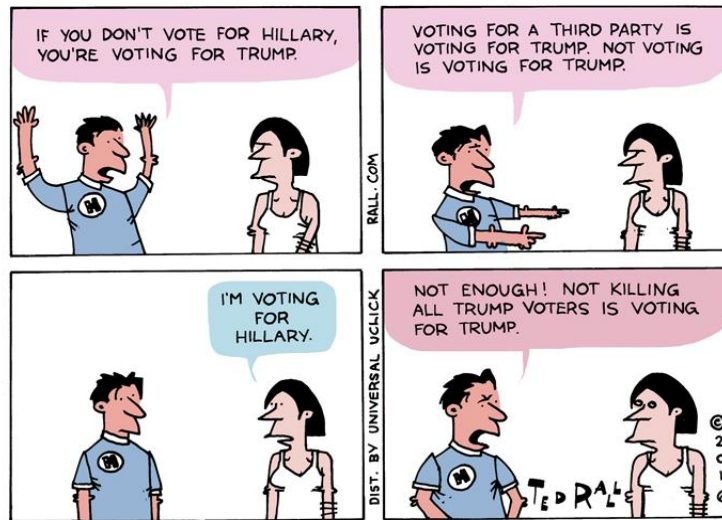


## Military Resistance 14I

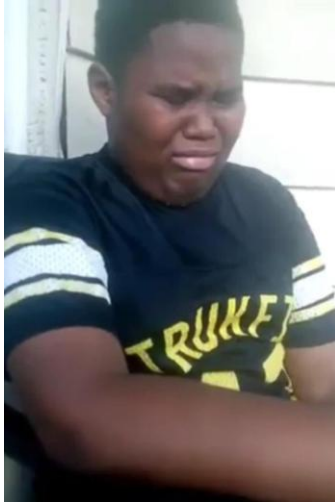


### **10-Year-Old Chased And Cornered By Armed Cops In A Terrifying Case Of Mistaken Identity:**

**“They Could Have Done Anything  
To My Son And It Could Have  
Been His Fault”**

**“‘He Matches The Description,’ The  
Cops Countered”**

**Armed Robbery Suspend “Who Wears  
Dreadlocks And Sports Facial Hair —  
Was Captured On The Next Block”**



Legend Preston (Patisha Solomon/via Facebook)



Police were searching for Casey Joseph Robinson, 20, who was eventually captured.  
(Newark Police Department)

August 23, 2016 by Edgar Sandoval, Thomas Tracy, Leonard Greene; Daily News

A Newark mom whose 10-year-old son was chased and cornered by armed cops in a terrifying case of mistaken identity says an apology isn't enough — she wants reform.

Nearly two weeks after Legend Preston's run-in with a tactical team chasing an armed robbery suspect, his mother, Patisha Solomon remains horrified over what could have happened.

"When I think about my child staring at the end of a gun," Solomon, 30, told the Daily News.

"One wrong move, and my child wouldn't be here right now. My son could have tripped.

"He could have reached for a toy. They could have done anything to my son and it could have been his fault."

Legend was simply retrieving a ball from the street near a garage on Stuyvesant Avenue where he was playing basketball with some other boys when he saw armed cops bearing down on him like his face was on a wanted poster, his mother said.

Legend, according to his family, did what any right-minded, city-raised kid would do under the circumstances — he ran.

“I was scared for my life,” Legend told the News. “I was thinking that they were going to shoot me.”

He was soon surrounded by neighbors and friends who shielded him from the blundering cops.

**“This is a child!” they screamed.**

**“He matches the description,” the cops countered, according to Legend’s mother, who shared her version of events from the Aug. 11 incident in a viral Facebook post that featured video of the boy shaking and crying.**

Cops got their man — 20-year-old Casey Joseph Robinson — but not before walking off without an apology to Legend or his mom.

Robinson — who wears dreadlocks and sports facial hair — was captured on the next block. He was charged with armed robbery, unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

“I was yelling at the police,” Solomon said. “Then one of the officers very smugly said, ‘You want to make a report, go to 32 Green St.’ and kept walking,” she said, a reference to the city’s municipal building. “I wanted to go off. I really did.”

Instead, she turned her attention to her traumatized son, and, and before her cell phone’s battery died, recorded his reaction, which she posted on social media for her outraged friends and followers.

“I knew I had to get some type of documentation,” Solomon said. “With these police we have to have our batteries fully charged because you never know what’s going on.”

Solomon said she and her son have followed news about the Black Lives Matter movement, and insisted that she never wanted to be an activist.

“What option have they given me but to speak out,” Solomon said. “I didn’t ask for any of this. My prime concern is not an apology. My concern is reform of this system. I want to see accountability and responsibility.”

A police department spokeswoman referred questions about the incident to the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office, which is investigating the incident. A police spokesman told WABC news, which first reported the story, that responding officers did have their guns drawn but said they never aimed the weapons at Legend.

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# Oklahoma Officer Pepper Sprays 84-Year-Old Woman: “Not Charged With A Crime She Later Sat In Jail For No Apparent Reason”



Geneva Smith (left). FOX 23 NEWS

August 29, 2016 BY JASON SILVERSTEIN, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Newly released body cam footage shows police in Oklahoma pepper-spraying an innocent, 84-year-old woman in her own home — after officers chased her son into the house.

The footage of the attack on Geneva Smith emerged Friday, just days after she threatened legal action over the violent encounter. Smith said she did nothing to provoke the spray, and suffered a panic attack as she later sat in jail for no apparent reason.

The video, obtained by Fox 23 News, shows Muskogee police officers storming into Smith's home while searching for her son, Arthur Paul Blackmon. Police said the son drove through a stop sign, then ran away from officers and into his mother's house.

In the chaotic clip, Smith seems clearly confused when officers enter her home, searching for her son.

An officer eventually shoots the son with a Taser as he appears to hold up his hands.

**As Smith demands to know what's going on, an officer later identified as Michelle Casady warns her, "Turn around and face that way, now, or I'll spray you."**

**Just moments later, Casady sprays Smith's face, and the octogenarian collapses to the ground as she is handcuffed.**

Blackmon was charged with driving under the influence, obstructing an officer, driving with a suspended license and carrying a weapon, police said.

Smith, meanwhile, was not charged with a crime. But officers later said she brought on the spray by failing to comply with orders.

An attorney representing the city told the Muskogee Phoenix the spray was a reasonable use of force "given the totality of the circumstances." The police department said it is still investigating the incident.

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## **Teacher Humiliates 1st-Grader By Throwing Away Her Shoes As Punishment For Fidgeting: "I Told Her To Leave The Shoes Alone, And She Did Not Listen To Me"**

### **"She Said The Strap Was Bothering Her In Math Class Last Week"**



Photo Credit: Photo via Raw Story

August 30, 2016 By Eryn Rogers, WSPA.com & August 31, 2016 By Travis Gettys, Raw Story

SIMPSONVILLE, S.C. – Two Upstate parents are looking for answers after they said a teacher threw away their first-grader's shoes at Bryson Elementary in Simpsonville last week.

The girl said the sandal strap was bothering her during math class at Bryson Elementary in Simpsonville, and her teacher threw them in the trash and made her walk around barefoot for part of the day.

Six-year-old Taraji Edward's mother said she knew there was a problem when she was getting her daughter ready for school the next day.

"She began to cry, 'no mommy I don't want to wear those sandals'," Chartrese Edwards.

Edwards said she asked her daughter why, and that's when her daughter told her the teacher had thrown them away the day before.

"I was messing with my shoes, and the teacher told me eight times or seven, and I never listened," Taraji said.

She said the strap was bothering her in math class last week.

Even at six-years-old, Taraji admits her part but said the issue is what happened after.

"I feel like it was malicious behavior," Edwards said. "I'm angry about it because you could have used a better method."

Taraji said she felt singled out. "I feel embarrassed, and I did not like how she treated me... that's not a way I can make friends," she said.

Edwards said she did speak with the principal and teacher at the school.

"She easily confessed," Edwards said. "Yes I did.' I told her to leave the shoes alone, and she did not listen to me."

Greenville County Schools District released the statement below regarding the incident:

"Greenville County Schools is taking this family's concerns very seriously. The district does not tolerate embarrassment or humiliation as a form of punishment. This matter is being thoroughly investigated by Bryson Elementary and by district administrators. The investigation is not yet complete. As this is a personnel matter, Greenville County Schools cannot release the teacher's name or the disciplinary action taken, if the investigation determines that discipline is warranted."

The parents have had meetings with the district and reached out to the school board.

They said they want to see action taken against the teacher but don't know if they'll send their daughter back to the school.

"I haven't made a decision for what we're going to do further because I need to gain some trust," Edwards said.

However, she's not the only one with trust issues.

"I do not want to get treated like that," Taraji said. "I'm only six."

The mother said the school district approved a home bound teacher for her daughter on Tuesday afternoon.

The family has set up a GoFundMe page to raise money to send their daughter to a private school.

A South Carolina teacher punished a first-grader for fiddling with her shoes a week into the school year by tossing her sandals into the trash.

Chartrese Edwards said her 6-year-old daughter, Taraji, started crying when she got ready for school, saying she didn't want to wear the shoes her mother had picked out for her, reported WSPA-TV.

She asked the girl what was wrong, and she said her teacher had taken them away from her the previous day in school.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



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

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

**“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**People do not make revolutions eagerly any more than they do war. There is this difference, however, that in war compulsion plays the decisive role, in revolution there is no compulsion except that of circumstances.**

**A revolution takes place only when there is no other way out. And the insurrection, which rises above a revolution like a peak in the mountain chain of its events, can be no more evoked at will than the revolution as a whole. The masses advance and retreat several times before they make up their minds to the final assault.**

**-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution**

## **The Mural At My Lai**



From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: May 13, 2016  
Subject: The Mural at My Lai

**Full Disclosure**



The story of the massacre is in this mural. Unfortunately, this piece of art needs a lot of repair. I have been emailing the site to see if they can track down the original artist.

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

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

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

## **“There Is A Compelling Case To Be Made That Both Poverty In An Absolute Sense And Inequality Have Increased In The Face Of Globalization”**

Selected Journalism of Karl Marx;  
Dispatches From The New York Tribune  
Penguin Books, 2007

From the forward by Francis Wheen [Excerpts]

According to its many adherents, free trade meant that tariffs would come down, that trade would flourish, and thus that the secret to widespread prosperity had been unlocked

That was---and to some extent still is---the official view of history; but it was not the world that Marx saw.

He saw a political system dominated by hypocrisy and illegitimate power. He saw, perhaps more dearly than anyone else of his time, that increasing wealth did not eliminate poverty and human suffering even in the world's most prosperous countries, and indeed appeared to make the problems worse.

He saw Britain--- ostensibly one of the world's most democratic countries---twist and conceal the diplomatic record in order to launch disastrous wars abroad, both in the Crimea and in China.

He saw autocratic powers in France and Austria manipulate the fragile workings of democracy in order to preserve their own power and enrich their cronies.

And, perhaps most of all, he saw that the prosperity of the West depended in no small part on the enforced trade of opium and the increased trade in slavery---and that Western powers were all too willing to engage in lethal force to protect those trades.

Indeed, there is a compelling case to be made that both poverty in an absolute sense and inequality have increased in the face of globalization.

According to United Nation figures, the average African household consumed 20 per cent less at the end of the twentieth century than it did a quarter of a century earlier.

**Falling commodity prices---a direct result of enforced free trade---and billions of dollars in protectionism from First-World countries---an example of the limits of Western commitment to genuine free trade---mean that farmers in Africa and Latin America must increase production every year just to make the same amount of money---a treadmill Marx would have recognized all too well.**

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## Tubal Cain



By Charles Mackay

### TUBAL CAIN

**Old Tubal Cain was a man of might  
In the days when the Earth was young;  
By the fierce red light of his furnace bright  
The strokes of his hammer rung;  
And he lifted high his brawny hand  
On the iron glowing clear,  
Till the sparks rushed out in scarlet showers**

And he fashioned the sword and spear.  
And he sang "Hurra for the handiwork!  
Hurra for the spear and sword!  
Hurra for the hand that shall wield them well,  
For he shall be king and lord!"

To Tubal Cain came many a one,  
As he wrought by his roaring fire;  
And each one prayed for a strong steel blade  
As the crown of his desire.  
And he made them weapons sharp and strong,  
Till they shouted loud for glee,  
And gave him gifts of pearl and gold,  
And spoils of the forest free;  
And they said, "Hurra for Tubal Cain,  
Who hath given us strength anew!  
Hurra for the smith, hurra for the fire,  
And hurra for the metal true!"

But a sudden change came o'er his heart  
Ere the setting of the sun,  
And Tubal Cain was filled with pain for  
The Evil he had done;  
He saw that men, with rage and hate,  
Made war upon their kind,  
That the land was red with the blood they shed,  
In their lust for carnage blind.  
And he said, "Alas! that ever I made,  
Or the skill of mine should plan,  
The spear and the sword for men whose joy  
Is to slay their fellow-man."

And for many a day old Tubal Cain  
Sat brooding o'er his woe;  
And his hand forebore to smite the ore,  
And his furnace smoldered low.  
But he rose at last with a cheerful face,  
And a bright courageous eye,  
And bared his strong right hand for work  
While the quick flames mounted high!  
And he sang, "Hurra for my handicraft!"  
And the red sparks lit the air;  
"Not alone for the blade was the bright steel made!"  
And he fashioned the first ploughshare.

And men, taught wisdom from the past,  
In friendship joined their hands;  
Hung the sword in the hall, the spear on the wall,  
And ploughed the willing lands;  
And sang, "Hurra for Tubal Cain!  
Our staunch good friend is he;

And for the ploughshare and the plough  
To him our praise shall be;  
But while oppression lifts its head,  
Or a tyrant would be lord  
Though we may thank him for the plough  
We'll not forget the sword!"

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **September 3, 1838 Frederick Douglass Made His Escape From Slavery: “It Is Not Light That Is Needed, But Fire”**



Frederick Douglass

Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

Frederick Douglass made his escape from slavery in Baltimore and went on in life to become an Abolitionist, journalist, author, and human rights advocate.

[During the Civil War, he pressed relentlessly for the enlistments of former slaves into the U.S. army, and when this was permitted, they served with honor and played an important role in defeating the slave-owning traitors who formed the Confederacy. T]

**Frederick Douglass:**

**“Find out just what people will submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue until they are resisted with either words or blows, or both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.”**

**“Power concedes nothing without demand. It never has and never will.”**

**“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning.”**

**“The thing worse than rebellion is the thing that causes rebellion.”**

**“I have found that, to make a contented slave, it is necessary to make a thoughtless one.”**

**“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.”**

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## **Liberation Anniversary: September 5, 1970: Operation Raw**



September 03, 2006 By Carl Bunin, Peace History Sept 4-10

**September 4, 1970**

**Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) began Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal).**

**Over the following three days more than 200 veterans, assisted by the Philadelphia Guerilla Theater, staged a march from Morristown, New Jersey, to**

Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, reenacting the invasion of small rural hamlets along the way.

**MORE:**

# ***Operation Raw***

## **From The Days When U.S. Soldiers Rebelled And Stopped A War**

[From GI Special 3D22: 11.22.05]

**By Joe Urgo, GI antiwar activist in Vietnam 1968**  
Letters To The Editor  
Revolutionary Worker, April 9, 1985

**It was Labor Day weekend 1970 — the end of summer when tradition in America is for friends and family to gather in back yards, beaches, and parks.**

**It was 10:30 a.m. in Doylestown, Pennsylvania and a company of infantry swept into town, seized and occupied the center of the city, setting up roadblocks and taking civilian prisoners.**

**Anyone fleeing was killed, the rest were tortured and then killed just for being there. The younger women were particularly manhandled and abused before being killed. At 10:45 a.m., once again on alert, the company marched south of the town, leaving a trail of bloody bodies and survivors standing in their yards and streets, mute with shock, unbelieving eyes fastened on the departing soldiers. Leaflets lay in the streets which said:**

**“A U.S. INFANTRY COMPANY JUST CAME THROUGH HERE.”**

**“If you had been Vietnamese:**

**—We might have burned your house.**

**—We might have shot your dog.**

**—We might have shot you.**

**—We might have raped the women.**

**—We might have turned you over to your government for torture.**

**—We might have taken souvenirs from your property.**

**—We might have shot things up a bit.**

**—We might have done all these things to you and your whole town.**

**“If it doesn’t bother you that American soldiers do these things every day to the Vietnamese simply because they are ‘gooks,’ then picture yourself as one of the silent victims. Help us to end the war before they turn your son into a butcher. . . or a corpse. Signed Vietnam Veterans Against the War.”**

With No Business As Usual Day fast approaching (and coming by coincidence right before the tenth anniversary of the U.S. defeat in Vietnam), I thought it was just the right time to recount this political action carried out by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

**This was Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal), a four-day simulated, 90-mile search-and-destroy mission through eleven rural towns and villages from Morristown, New Jersey to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.**

**By the end of four days 125 veterans and a few active-duty GIs had formed four platoons and two recon squads to reenact thirteen “incidents” like described above.**

It was “theater,” but these reenactments brought home a powerful political statement that shook up the stultifying atmosphere in the middle-America towns which had largely escaped the mass upsurges of the time.

Formed in 1968 to lobby, this was VVAW’s first breakout action to bring the war home. As Scott Moore, a member of its executive committee, said at a press conference: “The time for talk has come to an end for VVAW. We have been talking for three years to no avail. We are now proceeding on a course of action.” The discussion of planning leading up to it had asked the questions of how to break through the normal business as usual protests that had been going on, to shake things up and expose the truth.

**“Montgomeryville, PA., September 6, 1500 hours: We liberated a shopping center. The platoon surrounded it front and back and we took seven prisoners from the crowd. We interrogated them, then beat the shit out of them. After they’d been executed, we carried one girl who looked like she was fourteen over to the side of the road and mauled her with the butts of our rifles. Blood streamed down her head and soaked her torso. Maybe 150 cars passed by. Everyone looked, then turned aside. They didn’t look again. No one stopped. They couldn’t stand to look at the bloody little kid” (excerpt from the Camden, NJ Courier Post reporting on the demonstration).**

A local guerrilla theater company agreed to play the townspeople in the prearranged skits; towns and roads were mapped in advance so that as the company surrounded a home or a village — with walkie-talkies screaming and vets running all over the place, blood capsules bursting on library steps in front of meat stores — there was a sense of realism in the air as America’s safe hamlets were invaded. There could be no business as usual today.

**Though their rifles were toy props, most of the vets were not acting.**

**In a few cases they had been doing this for real only a short time before, and in several “incidents” they went right to the edge of reality in carrying out their mission.**

In town after town, and once by a county fair, homes were mock-burned, free fire zones formed, hostages taken for interrogation, and onlookers were given a taste of what the Vietnamese people were forced to live with.

None of the audience liked being called “round-eyed gooks,” offended by the sharp language of the leaflets being handed out. Reactions ranged from disbelief and shock to embarrassed laughter to damning U.S. involvement to some who thought the uniform was being disgraced.

Local communes and peace groups met the vets at different points with banners, signs, cars honking, fists out of windows. On September 5 this march met up with and camped with 60 members of the offshoot of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference called MAN, Making a Nation, who were themselves marching to the UN to protest American failure to sign the antigenocide bill.

The tempo picked up as the march neared the end and word spread of this “forced raid into America.” The vets themselves got strong in their determination to see it through. At night the campsites were not drunken beerfests but preparation of another type — political discussion over what was the next step, what should our objectives be, how to reach out to the millions of vets and GIs out there trying to figure this out also.

**This was sharp as there was a wide range of opinion — some were just basically opposed to Americans dying, with much discussion about the nature of imperialism, while others were revolutionaries working for the defeat of America. (All this with rotating night patrols on the perimeter -- — the campsite owners had been threatened by a local citizens committee, a car had tried to run someone down and a shotgun had been pointed out the window of a home along the route of march.)**

**The two sharpest points agreed to were (1) a series of objectives that drew the links between the racism and sexism to what America did around the world and that VVAW work toward getting all American soldiers and CIA out of every country in the world, and (2) a specific call to prepare for a series of war crimes investigations — the famous “Winter Soldier” hearings — to “place the blame where it properly belongs, on administration and military officials and all those who dictate policy and remain silent or profit from war.”**

As one vet summed up his feelings about the weekend: “the spirit that we would never again fight *for* America — America was the enemy that had to be stopped, that we were fighting as part of and for a different world — this became real on the march for me and became a guide for many vets later on.”

**By the last day, spirits were high as the vets encountered a last bit of opposition — a pitiful display of what America has to offer — the Veterans of Foreign Wars**



(VFW), American Legion, and John Birch Society denouncing the vets for not being vets and calling people to god and country.

The vets laughed at this as they reached Valley Forge, Pennsylvania where they formed up on a hilt, single file along the top, “rifles” up for a final assault. They moved down the hill as if back in Vietnam sweeping through a rice paddy — angrily chanting for American withdrawal.

For the crowd of 1,500-2,000 at the rally site below — now standing up and cheering — the scene had a chilling’ scary effect — a final sense of what it must have been like to be Vietnamese in Vietnam in 1970.

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



*“Stand up or go home! Traumatic brain injuries are for real Americans only!”*

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: “Substitute the word "rights" for TBI”]

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## **No To Hillary Or Trump, Says Painters Local 10**

Aug 19, 2016 NWLaborpress.org [Excerpt]

At the Aug. 17 general membership meeting of Portland-headquartered Painters Local 10, members passed a resolution saying the local does not support Democrats or Republicans, which “are and have always been strike-breaking, war-making parties of

the bosses.” The resolution was introduced by Wyatt McMinn, vice president and chair of the union’s Volunteer Activist Committee.

It passed unanimously.

Specifically, the resolution calls on the Painters international union to repudiate its earlier endorsement of Hillary Clinton for president, and it calls on the labor movement to break from the Democratic Party and build a “class-struggle workers party.”

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## **DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK**

# **Greek Populace Awakened At 6 A.M. By Angela Merkel’s Voice Booming Through Loudspeakers Across Country: “Time To Get Out Of Bed And Head Out To Your Jobs!”**

August 31, 2016 The Onion

ATHENS, GREECE—

Following a sudden high-pitched squeal of audio feedback, the 11 million citizens of Greece were reportedly woken up at 6 a.m. Wednesday by German chancellor Angela Merkel informing them over loudspeakers that it was time for work.

“Rise and shine, Greece!

“Time to get out of bed and head out to your jobs!” said Merkel, bidding the indebted nation a productive day as she has done every morning since bailout loans to Greece began six years ago.

“Work is good for your country and good for the eurozone! You have 30 minutes to get ready!”

According to sources, Merkel’s voice then cut out, only to return later that evening for Greece’s 10 p.m. lights-out warning.

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## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

# Zionist Soldiers Open Fire On Unarmed Palestinian Farmers Inside Free Gaza “Three Palestinians Shot”



August 27, 2016 IMEMC News

Israeli soldiers, stationed on military towers across the border fence with the besieged Gaza Strip, opened fire, on Saturday morning, at several Palestinian farmers in their own lands, near the Zeitoun and the Sheja'eyya neighborhoods, east of Gaza city.

The WAFA Palestinian News Agency said the soldiers in two military bases, fired dozens of live rounds at the farmers while trying to enter their own lands, forcing them away.

The soldiers were stationed on towers in Nahal Oz and Malka military bases, across the border fence.

On Friday, three Palestinians were shot with live Israeli army fire after the soldiers targeted them in a Palestinian land, east of the Sheja'eyya neighborhood. They were moved to the Shifa hospital, west of Gaza city, suffering moderate wounds.

The attacks are part of daily Israeli violations against the Palestinians in different parts of the coastal region. The assaults target workers and farmers on their lands close to the border fence, and fishers in Palestinian territorial waters.

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**Israeli Commander Threatens “I Will Have All Of You Walking With Crutches And In Wheelchairs”  
“30 Palestinians Have Been Shot With Live Ammunition In The Camp Since The Beginning Of The Year, The Majority In Their Legs And Knees”**



A file photo of a group of Palestinian youth after being treated for gunshot injuries by Israeli forces (Photo: BADIL)

Aug. 26, 2016 Ma'an

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- Two Palestinian youths were injured with live fire during clashes with Israeli soldiers in al-Duheisha refugee camp in southern Bethlehem early Friday morning, as reports emerged of an Israeli army commander making repeated threats in recent weeks to make “all youth in the camp disabled.”

Local sources said that two youths were shot and injured in the legs during clashes that erupted after Israeli forces raided the camp in predawn hours on Friday.

**Sources added that Israeli soldiers raided and searched the house of incarcerated Palestinian Muhammad al-Seifi, detaining his mother and sister by locking them inside their home to pressure Muhammad's younger brother Naba to turn himself into Israeli authorities.**

**Israeli forces also blew off the door of the Ibdaa Cultural Center near the entrance of the camp and occupied the rooftop of the building, from where Israeli snipers fired live ammunition and tear gas canisters at local youth.**

Violent clashes in al-Duheisha are common and break out nearly every time Israeli army forces enter the camp, which is located in Area A and should be under full Palestinian Authority control according to the Oslo agreements.

**In a response to a request for comment, an Israeli army spokesperson told Ma'an that the Israeli army was not involved, and claimed Israeli border police were behind the operation, despite the area being located outside of police jurisdiction in Area A of the occupied West Bank.**

When contacted by Ma'an, Israeli police spokesperson Micky Rosenfeld said he was not aware of the raid, saying it "made no sense" that police would be involved, and confirmed that al-Duheisha fell under the Israeli army's jurisdiction in terms of raids. When contacted a second time, an Israeli army spokesperson insisted again that the army was not behind the raid and could not say who had been.

The clashes come in the wake of reports documented by BADIL, the Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, of an Israeli army commander making repeated threats during and after raids, and during interrogations, to disable all Palestinian youth in al-Duheisha.

The commander is reportedly responsible for all Bethlehem-area refugee camps, and known to locals as "Captain Nidal."

**Local youth in al-Duheisha told BADIL that Captain Nidal has made statements such as: "I will make all the youth of the camp disabled," "I will have all of you walking with crutches and in wheelchairs," "I will make half of you disabled, and let the other half push the wheelchairs," and "I will make all of you stand in line at the ATM waiting for your disability subsidies and assistance."**

One of the injured youth told BADIL that Captain Nidal told him to tell his friends that "Nidal will make all of you disabled."

**According to BADIL, which is based in Bethlehem, 30 Palestinians have been shot with live ammunition in the camp since the beginning of the year, the majority in their legs and knees.**

**They added that al-Duheisha had been raided at least three times by Israeli forces between the end of July and mid-August, during which time 18 Palestinian youth between 14 and 27 years old were shot in their legs -- eight of which shot directly in the knee and several more in both legs -- causing both permanent and temporary disabilities.**

An Israeli army spokesperson could not immediately be reached for comment on the reports of the threats made by the commander.

“These threats indicate that these actions are not accidental or isolated incidents, but rather result from a systematic Israeli military policy aimed at suppressing resistance, terrorizing Palestinian youth, and permanently injuring them and/or causing significant damage to their physical and mental well-being,” BADIL said in their statement.

The reported threats come amid what BADIL called an intensification of the “systematic targeting” of Palestinian youth in the occupied Palestinian territory -- particularly in refugee camps -- since the beginning of 2016.

“This targeting has taken the form of injuries and arbitrary killings by the use of live ammunition by the Israeli army in the context of arrest campaigns, military raids, and random wide searches which usually trigger clashes,” the statement said.

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**The Stupid, Vicious Cruelty Of  
The Zionist Occupation:  
Gaza Artists Forbidden To Enter  
Occupied Palestine Despite  
Having Official Invitations;  
“We Just Want To Sing For Love And  
Peace” Say Palestine Sings  
Children’s Choir And Dawaween  
Band;  
“After Months Of Training And  
Preparation, They Were Not Permitted To  
Leave Gaza By Israeli Authorities Only  
Two Days Before Their First Concert  
Was Due To Take Place”**



Al-Sununu Institution, which was established in 2010, focuses on songs from Palestinian and Arab heritage (MEE/Mohammed Asad)



Female members of the Palestine Sings children chorus look beyond the gate at Erez crossing (MEE/Mohammed Asad)

BEIT HANOUN, Gaza –

In the past few months, the Gaza Strip has witnessed a burgeoning arts scene. The number of bands has skyrocketed, large concerts have taken place on a regular basis, and musicians have been invited to perform outside the densely populated, besieged area.

However, much to the dismay of the musicians, which of late included a children's choir, Israel has routinely refused to give permits, most often without explanation.

**The Palestine Sings children's chorus, which is a part of the UNICEF-funded Al-Sununu Institution for Culture and Arts, was recently invited to perform in the Palestine Choral Festival in the West Bank from 15-20 August.**

They planned to have workshops in Jenin and Jerusalem, in addition to holding two concerts in Bethlehem and Ramallah.

But after months of training and preparation, they were not permitted to leave Gaza by Israeli authorities only two days before their first concert was due to take place.

"We received the rejection letter on 15 August, two days before our first concert. All the names (of the participants) were rejected, including twenty-five children and five teachers," said Haytham al-Mughanni, the choir's coordinator.

"We didn't receive any explanation from the Israeli side, and we don't know the reasons behind this rejection."

Mughanni said they were granted permission to perform by the Palestinian General Authority for Civil Affairs in the West Bank, but that Israel overrode that decision.

"We applied to have the permissions by the General Authority for Civil Affairs in the West Bank, which is responsible for such official applications," al-Mughanni added. "As usual, it was impossible to predict when the Israeli answer would arrive. After receiving the rejection, the General Authority for Civil Affairs tried hard to help us but without answers from the Israeli side."

The choir decided to protest their rejection at the Beit Hanoun border crossing, which connects the Gaza Strip with Israel. On 21 August, the chorus group arrived at the border in their uniforms and the Keffiyeh, the Palestinian traditional scarf, and demonstrated staged a demonstration by singing a number of songs.

"We are very disappointed," said Medo al-Ashi, a 15-year-old oud player and singer. "We are here to show the world that we don't have weapons. We just want to sing for love and peace."

Al-Sununu Institution, which was established in 2010, focused on teaching children how to sing traditional Arab and Palestinian songs, but this year, they also began to teach them how to play music.

Most of the children joined the choir at Al-Sununu in 2011, and have sung together since then, making for a highly tight-knit group.



With 530 children distributed into choir teams and 80 students learning how to play music, Al-Sununu Institution plays an integral role in spreading arts and culture in Palestinian society.

The Gaza Sings choir, which includes 25 children between the ages of 10-16, has been performing in the strip since 2011. In addition, they have regularly participated, via video conference, with some other choirs in Syria, the West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan.

**Gada Nofal, a 14-year-old singer, told Middle East Eye: “I’ve never visited the West Bank,” she added. “Seeing Jerusalem, Jenin, Bethlehem, Ramallah for the first time is more than a dream for me, especially since I was going to sing on a national stage for the first time. On the other hand, I wanted to paint a good picture of Gaza’s children and its talents.”**

Choir members say that participating in the choir has had a positive effect on their lives.

“It’s my fifth year in Al-Sununu. In fact, my musical experience here changed me,” said Bilal Saleh, a 15-year-old singer and oud player.

“It taught me to listen to others’ opinions and to respect their points of view. Furthermore, it inspired me not just to have unlimited dreams, but also to work hard to achieve them.”

“After months of hard work, the only thing a musician can dream of is to perform on a stage and to see people’s positive reactions. Unfortunately, we won’t be able to experience this.

“I’m wondering why we were rejected and I really don’t have a logical answer,” he said.

According to one of the singers, 14-year-old Mariam Abu Hashish, the choir has been denied from leaving Gaza in the past.

“In 2011 and 2013, we had two opportunities to perform in France, and the two were denied in the same way,” she said.

However, despite this, the group has remained close.

“We are a real family,” said Hashish while taking selfies with her friends.

### **“The Israeli Violations Against Artists Won’t Break Our Will”**

“We won’t give up. Being deprived of visiting our land in West Bank will make us stronger and will inspire us to keep on trying, and to believe in our message,” she added.

Last December, a group of four musicians decided to play music together, not knowing they would go on to create the most popular band in Gaza. The group calls itself Dawaween, which now has ballooned to 13 musicians, and they performed for the first time last January.



Dawaween distinguished themselves by singing pure Palestinian songs with modern touch by adding Western musical instruments like drums and guitars (MEE/Mohameed Asad)

“Our first step was to create the band, then after our great success, we started to play in poetry events. Nowadays, we are looking forward to participating in events related to theatre,” said Adel Abed Alrahman, the band’s coordinator and founder.

During the past eight months, the Dawaween band has performed in seventeen concerts, among them the Palestine International Festival, wherein local and international bands play throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The number of concerts has markedly affected the general musical taste of Gazans and raised public awareness towards concerts and music.

**Since Hamas’ took control of Gaza in 2007, musicians have faced many difficulties due to government interventions. Permits to hold concerts were difficult to obtain, and even those with permits were often cancelled. Strict religious adherence in Gaza has also stunted the proliferation of music in the Strip.**

**“We made a musical revolution in Gaza,” said Abed Alrahman. “Nowadays, it’s much easier to get a permit for a concert, and people have started to accept music.”**

“Our message is to show how music can be a peaceful resistance tool and a perfect cure to people’s sufferings,” Adel Abed Alrahman said.

Dawaween adds modern flairs to traditional Palestinian music by using Western musical instruments like drums and guitars.

Saeed Shahin, the 23-year-old percussionist of Dawaween explained, “We have different types of percussions in our band. This variety helped us re-arrange our traditional songs.”

“I feel that I’m in the right place. I’m very positive and productive here.”

“We strongly believe in our national and humanitarian goal. We want to reach all the Palestinian people inside and outside Palestine through our traditional songs,” Shahin added.

The thirteen musicians from Dawaween were scheduled to have their “dream concert” at the Palestinian National Theatre “Al-Hakawaty” in Jerusalem on 6 August as part of the Palestine International Festival. However, Israeli authorities denied permits for 11 of the 13 musicians.

“Although we predicted that this would happen, we still felt bitter at the injustice,” said Shahin.

As a result, the band decided to protest near the Beit Hanoun crossing at the same time that their concert was slated to take place.

“The Israeli violations against artists won’t break our will. We will keep on exposing their crimes by our art and music,” he ended.

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

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

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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