

Military Resistance 1417



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "What are we fighting for?"]

**New York City:
“Individual Terror Is
Inadmissible Because It
Belittles The Role Of The
Masses In Their Own
Consciousness; Reconciles
Them To Their Powerlessness”**

“In Place Of Kindled Hopes And Artificially Aroused Excitement Comes Disillusionment And Apathy” “The Police Repression Grows More Savage And Brazen” “If We Oppose Terrorist Acts, It Is Because Individual Revenge Does Not Satisfy Us” “The Account We Have To Settle With The Capitalist System Is Too Great”

Comment T

The article below may be a useful reminder of the futility of individual terrorism.

It was written against terrorism practiced by anarchist political tendencies who thought killing this or that politician would serve some useful purpose.

It is not directly on point with current events in New York City. That attack was not conducted by anarchists, but by an individual lacking both courage and any intelligent purpose.

Lacking courage for choosing as the target unarmed civilians, rather than any part of the political leadership or armed departments of the government, which is even now sending our soldiers on assorted Imperial missions in Africa and the Mid-East.

As the article below discusses, even a less cowardly choice of target would still have been futile, only demoralizing forces fighting for human liberation.

And stupid for failing to care how the attack will play into the hands of Imperial governments, opening the door for even more police repression everywhere in general, and even more police repression in particular against all those who reactionary regimes and politicians choose to label “Islamic.”

There are already howls from politicians demanding further repression of “Islamic extremists.”

The stupid cowards who conduct these attacks serve our enemies.

They, and the oligarchs who now control every society on earth, without exception, are twisted mirror images of each other: brainless, deadly, reactionary, without honor or common decency, no longer serving any useful purpose, and overdue for extinction.

By Leon Trotsky; Originally published in German in Der Kampf, November 1911

Our class enemies are in the habit of complaining about our terrorism.

What they mean by this is rather unclear.

They would like to label all the activities of the proletariat directed against the class enemy's interests as terrorism.

The strike, in their eyes, is the principal method of terrorism. The threat of a strike, the organisation of strike pickets, an economic boycott of a slave-driving boss, a moral boycott of a traitor from our own ranks—all this and much more they call terrorism.

If terrorism is understood in this way as any action inspiring fear in, or doing harm to, the enemy, then of course the entire class struggle is nothing but terrorism.

And the only question remaining is whether the bourgeois politicians have the right to pour out their flood of moral indignation about proletarian terrorism when their entire state apparatus with its laws, police and army is nothing but an apparatus for capitalist terror!

However, it must be said that when they reproach us with terrorism, they are trying—although not always consciously—to give the word a narrower, less indirect meaning.

The damaging of machines by workers, for example, is terrorism in this strict sense of the word. The killing of an employer, a threat to set fire to a factory or a death threat to its owner, an assassination attempt, with revolver in hand, against a government minister—all these are terrorist acts in the full and authentic sense.

However, anyone who has an idea of the true nature of international Social Democracy ought to know that it has always opposed this kind of terrorism and does so in the most irreconcilable way.

Why?

'Terrorising' with the threat of a strike, or actually conducting a strike is something only industrial workers can do. The social significance of a strike depends directly upon first, the size of the enterprise or the branch of industry that it affects, and second, the degree to which the workers taking part in it are organised, disciplined, and ready for action.

This is just as true of a political strike as it is for an economic one. It continues to be the method of struggle that flows directly from the productive role of the proletariat in modern society.

In order to develop, the capitalist system needs a parliamentary superstructure. But because it cannot confine the modern proletariat to a political ghetto, it must sooner or later allow the workers to participate in parliament. In elections, the mass character of the proletariat and its level of political development—quantities which, again, are determined by its social role, i.e. above all, its productive role—find their expression.

As in a strike, so in elections the method, aim, and result of the struggle always depend on the social role and strength of the proletariat as a class. Only the workers can conduct a strike. Artisans ruined by the factory, peasants whose water the factory is poisoning, or lumpen proletarians in search of plunder can smash machines, set fire to a factory, or murder its owner.

Only the conscious and organised working class can send a strong representation into the halls of parliament to look out for proletarian interests.

However, in order to murder a prominent official you need not have the organised masses behind you.

The recipe for explosives is accessible to all, and a Browning can be obtained anywhere. In the first case, there is a social struggle, whose methods and means flow necessarily from the nature of the prevailing social order; and in the second, a purely mechanical reaction identical anywhere—in China as in France—very striking in its outward form (murder, explosions and so forth) but absolutely harmless as far as the social system goes.

A strike, even of modest size, has social consequences: strengthening of the workers' self-confidence, growth of the trade union, and not infrequently even an improvement in productive technology.

The murder of a factory owner produces effects of a police nature only, or a change of proprietors devoid of any social significance.

Whether a terrorist attempt, even a 'successful' one throws the ruling class into confusion depends on the concrete political circumstances. In any case the confusion can only be shortlived; the capitalist state does not base itself on government ministers and cannot be eliminated with them. The classes it serves will always find new people; the mechanism remains intact and continues to function.

But the disarray introduced into the ranks of the working masses themselves by a terrorist attempt is much deeper.

If it is enough to arm oneself with a pistol in order to achieve one's goal, why the efforts of the class struggle?

If a thimbleful of gunpowder and a little chunk of lead is enough to shoot the enemy through the neck, what need is there for a class organisation?

If it makes sense to terrify highly placed personages with the roar of explosions, where is the need for the party?

Why meetings, mass agitation and elections if one can so easily take aim at the ministerial bench from the gallery of parliament?

In our eyes, individual terror is inadmissible precisely because it belittles the role of the masses in their own consciousness, reconciles them to their powerlessness, and turns their eyes and hopes towards a great avenger and liberator who some day will come and accomplish his mission.

The anarchist prophets of the 'propaganda of the deed' can argue all they want about the elevating and stimulating influence of terrorist acts on the masses. Theoretical considerations and political experience prove otherwise.

The more 'effective' the terrorist acts, the greater their impact, the more they reduce the interest of the masses in self-organisation and self-education.

But the smoke from the confusion clears away, the panic disappears, the successor of the murdered minister makes his appearance, life again settles into the old rut, the wheel of capitalist exploitation turns as before; only the police repression grows more savage and brazen.

And as a result, in place of the kindled hopes and artificially aroused excitement comes disillusionment and apathy.

The efforts of reaction to put an end to strikes and to the mass workers' movement in general have always, everywhere, ended in failure. Capitalist society needs an active, mobile and intelligent proletariat; it cannot, therefore, bind the proletariat hand and foot for very long.

On the other hand, the anarchist 'propaganda of the deed' has shown every time that the state is much richer in the means of physical destruction and mechanical repression than are the terrorist groups.

If that is so, where does it leave the revolution? Is it rendered impossible by this state of affairs? Not at all.

For the revolution is not a simple aggregate of mechanical means. The revolution can arise only out of the sharpening of the class struggle, and it can find a guarantee of victory only in the social functions of the proletariat. The mass political strike, the armed insurrection, the conquest of state power—all this is determined by the degree to which production has been developed, the alignment of class forces, the proletariat's social weight, and finally, by the social composition of the army, since the armed forces are the factor that in time of revolution determines the fate of state power.

Social Democracy is realistic enough not to try to avoid the revolution that is developing out of the existing historical conditions; on the contrary, it is moving to meet the revolution with eyes wide open. But—contrary to the anarchists and in direct struggle against them—Social Democracy rejects all methods and means that have as their goal

to artificially force the development of society and to substitute chemical preparations for the insufficient revolutionary strength of the proletariat.

Before it is elevated to the level of a method of political struggle, terrorism makes its appearance in the form of individual acts of revenge.

So it was in Russia, the classic land of terrorism. The flogging of political prisoners impelled Vera Zasulich to give expression to the general feeling of indignation by an assassination attempt on General Trepov. Her example was imitated in the circles of the revolutionary intelligentsia, who lacked any mass support. What began as an act of unthinking revenge was developed into an entire system in 1879-81. The outbreaks of anarchist assassination in Western Europe and North America always come after some atrocity committed by the government—the shooting of strikers or executions of political opponents.

The most important psychological source of terrorism is always the feeling of revenge in search of an outlet.

There is no need to belabour the point that Social Democracy has nothing in common with those bought-and-paid-for moralists who, in response to any terrorist act, make solemn declarations about the 'absolute value' of human life.

These are the same people who, on other occasions, in the name of other absolute values—for example, the nation's honour or the monarch's prestige—are ready to shove millions of people into the hell of war.

Today their national hero is the minister who gives the sacred right of private property; and tomorrow, when the desperate hand of the unemployed workers is clenched into a fist or picks upon a weapon, they will start in with all sorts of nonsense about the inadmissibility of violence in any form.

Whatever the eunuchs and pharisees of morality may say, the feeling of revenge has its rights.

It does the working class the greatest moral credit that it does not look with vacant indifference upon what is going on in this best of all possible worlds.

Not to extinguish the proletariat's unfulfilled feeling of revenge, but on the contrary to stir it up again and again, to deepen it, and to direct it against the real causes of all injustice and human baseness—that is the task of the Social Democracy.

If we oppose terrorist acts, it is only because individual revenge does not satisfy us.

The account we have to settle with the capitalist system is too great to be presented to some functionary called a minister.

To learn to see all the crimes against humanity, all the indignities to which the human body and spirit are subjected, as the twisted outgrowths and expressions of the existing social system, in order to direct all our energies into a collective

struggle against this system—that is the direction in which the burning desire for revenge can find its highest moral satisfaction.

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.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

U.S. Airforce Assists Taliban Attack On Kirin Kot

September 19, 2016 AP

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan official says at least eight Afghan police officers have been killed in two U.S. airstrikes in southern Uruzgan province in what was apparently a friendly fire incident.

Rahimullah Khan, a provincial operational commander, says the first airstrike killed one policeman at a checkpoint outside the provincial capital of Tirin Kot, while the second, which struck the same area, killed seven others.

Khan says the airstrikes took place on Sunday afternoon around Tirin Kot. The Taliban have been advancing on the city in recent weeks.

A U.S. military spokesman confirmed that U.S. forces carried out an airstrike, saying they sought to assist Afghan troops who were fired on by the Taliban.

Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland says he doesn't "have any further information" on who the casualties may have been.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgent Car Bomb Kills Somali General And Give Bodyguards N Capital

18.09.16 AP

MOGADISHU -- A powerful car bomb killed a Somali military general and five of his bodyguards in the capital Sunday, according to a Somali police officer.

Gen. Mohamed Roble Jimale Gobanle and his bodyguards were killed when a bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle next to the general's car near Somalia's defense ministry compound in Mogadishu, said Capt. Ali Nur.

Gobanle was the commander of the Somali army's 3rd Brigade, a combat team fighting the al-Shabab Islamic extremists in southern Somalia.

Al-Shabab, claimed the responsibility for the attack, according the group's Andalus radio station. Al-Shabab has been waging a deadly insurgency across large parts of Somalia and often uses car bomb attacks.

MILITARY NEWS

When Pork Flies: The Lemon Has Liftoff!

**The F-35, The Pentagon's \$1.1
Trillion Flying Money Pit, Is (Sort
Of) Ready For Duty:**

**"As Far Back As 2001, The Cost Of
The Program Was Termed
Astronomical, With Initial Estimates
Pegged At \$233 Billion"**

“A High-Ranking Member Of The Pentagon Is Denigrating The Jets For Their Defects Even As They’re Being Declared Ready For Combat”



A United States Marine Corps F-35B aircraft. (Credit: Getty/Matt Cardy)

Sep 14, 2016 by Angelo Young, Salon.com

Twenty years since the Pentagon began taking bids from defense contractors, the F-35 fighter jet — the most expensive weapon ever made — is finally ready to see active duty over the Pacific Ocean.

The U.S. Marine Corps expects to deploy 16 of the stealthy high-tech warplanes early next year at Iwakuni Air Station in Japan. From there, U.S. pilots will begin testing the jets in regular noncombat operations from the Navy’s USS Wasp amphibious assault vessel in what one commanding general has described as the “school of hard knocks.”

It’s a curious choice of words considering the checkered history of the much-maligned and madly over-budget F-35, which has basically been taking knocks since it was first conceived.

Years of delays, management shakeups, engine and software problems — and most important — cost overruns have made this Lockheed Martin jet initiative a punching bag and pork barrel project.

As far back as 2001, the cost of the program was termed astronomical, with initial estimates pegged at \$233 billion. The price tag has ballooned to about \$400 billion, with plenty of glitches still to be worked out.

(A high-ranking member of the Pentagon is denigrating the jets for their defects even as they're being declared ready for combat.)

Throw in the average price of \$135 million a plane and pilot helmets that will run \$400,000 apiece, and the total cost of the F-35 program will exceed \$1.1 trillion.

In case you've been wondering where your hard-earned tax dollars go, now you know.

Recent efforts to reel in costs have bordered on satire. In July, Lockheed Martin announced plans to spend an additional \$170 million as part of a cost-reduction program that it claimed would reduce other costs by \$1 billion over five years.

Then just a month later, the Pentagon approved an additional \$1 billion for Lockheed Martin to offset the aerospace company's costs to suppliers, effectively wiping out whatever taxpayer savings Lockheed had been touting just weeks earlier.

Despite the many problems and immense costs, the F-35 program is so intricately linked to the military-industrial complex that efforts to rein it in have been fruitless. Major global politically connected aerospace companies involved: In addition to Lockheed Martin there's Pratt & Whitney, Northrup Grumman, Britain's BAE Systems and Norway's Kongsberg Gruppen.

Then there's the complex network of 1,300 smaller suppliers that are providing everything from the wiring to software code. And there are the American jobs hanging in the balance: More than 130,000 people in 45 states are employed by the F-35 program, according to Bloomberg, making it the most striking example of a U.S. defense project becoming so ingrained into the fabric of the U.S. economy that trying to tamp its excesses becomes politically unpopular and economically painful.

Peacenik former presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders has quietly courted Lockheed Martin to bring business to his home state of Vermont even as he has derided the defense industries.

In an odd twist, the normally hawkish Sen. John McCain has emerged as one of the most acid-tongued opponents of the program.

Both the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Air Force have recently declared their versions of the F-35 combat ready, but a memo issued in late August from the Pentagon's top testing official, Michael Gilmore, lambasted assertions that the planes were anywhere near ready, declaring them unsuitable for combat missions.

The planes "will need support to locate and avoid modern threats, acquire targets and engage formations with enemy fighter aircraft due to outstanding performance deficiencies," the 16-page memo first acquired by Bloomberg stated.

Among the problems: The jets don't carry much ordnance (just two missiles and two bombs), possess a poor cannon design that reduces accuracy and lack the capacity of existing jets when in close air-support situations.

But the U.S. Armed Forces is moving ahead with the F-35 anyway. After 20 years and \$400 billion of taxpayer money, the military has spent too much not to go the last yard — and \$700 billion — to see this program through.

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

Ask for work. If they do not give you work, ask for bread. If they do not give you work or bread, then take bread.”

– Emma Goldman

Relentless



Photo by Mike Hastie. September 2016

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: September 19, 2016 2:23 AM
Subject: Relentless

An Okinawan demonstrator confronts a Japanese police officer in Takae. Japan has never been liberated from the U.S. Government, and that is why U.S. Imperialism is still alive and well in Okinawa.

People do not investigate information that threatens their core belief system. It is too dangerous, because it would dismantle their emotional fortress of well being. That is why history always repeats itself.

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran**

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.

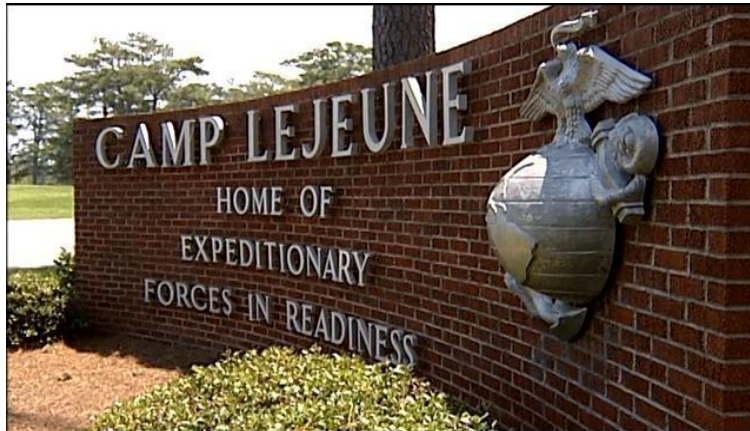
Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

The Most Powerful And Inspiring Resistance Photos Of The Year, So Far

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/12/us/12tribes.html>

[Scroll down to see the complete set]

Point/Counterpoint: It's Pronounced Camp Le-JERN vs. I Have Cancer



September 17, 2016 The Duffle Blog

The following is a Point/Counterpoint concerning the proper pronunciation of the name of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

Col. Robert Schild (Ret.), an amateur historian who served in the Marine Corps for 22 years, will be presenting the point. Joseph "Joe" Rhone, a former Marine sergeant who was stationed at Camp Lejeune from 1978 to 1983, will be presenting the counterpoint.

POINT: In a Corps which has produced countless heroes and legends, it's hard to find one with a greater impact than Lt. Gen. John Archer Lejeune, our 13th Commandant, peace be upon him. Maybe you've heard his Birthday Message, which has been read aloud by Marines every year since 1921!

When Gen. Lejeune died in 1942, the Corps honored this great figure by naming its new amphibious installation at New River, North Carolina after him. And that's why it's important that today we continue to honor his legacy by learning to pronounce his name correctly: Le-JERN, not Le-JUNE.

COUNTERPOINT: I have Stage IV breast cancer. The doctors think it's from drinking the water at Camp Lejeune, which they say had all kinds of chemicals and other hazardous waste. If I'd come in earlier, they might have caught it sooner, but now I guess it's only a matter of time.

How could this happen to me? I'm only 56! I may not be as young as I used to be, but I'm still healthy. At least I thought I was... They don't prepare you for shit like this... goddamn it.

POINT: During the Great War, General Le-JERN became the first Marine to command an Army division in combat. As commandant, he pioneered the amphibious assault doctrine which formed the backbone of our island-hopping campaign in World War II. He even founded the Marine Corps Association.

Every day I hear young Marines on base saying things like, "Camp Le-JUNE sucks," "Camp Le-JUNE is the worst place on earth," "Fuck Camp Le-JUNE," etc. I have to pull them aside and tell them they really should be saying, "Fuck Camp Le-JERN", but they never seem to listen.

COUNTERPOINT: The DoD said they found benzene in the water at Camp Lejeune. Like, that's shit you find in gasoline. I guess the Marine Corps knew back in the 1980s, but they covered it up. Why? And I was drinking it for all those years. My ex-wife too. Oh Christ, I wonder if that's what caused all her miscarriages. Oh fuck! Fuck me! Holy shit!

POINT: Marines were able to pronounce the name correctly until the Vietnam War, so I guess that was yet another standard we let slip. Actually, since Le-JERN is itself a Cajun bastardization of Lejeune's Swiss name, we really should be pronouncing it Camp Le-ZHERN or Le-ZHUN, but I guess that's just a battle we'll have to fight another day.

COUNTERPOINT: Cancer motherfucker! However you pronounce it, it's fucking killing me!

POINT: You make a good argument: Le-ZHUN would be much more professional.

ANNIVERSARIES

**September 20, 1830:
Honorable Anniversary:
“A Group Of 38 Free Black Americans
From Eight States, Met In Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania, With The Express Purpose
Of Abolishing Slavery”**



Richard Allen

Carl Bunin Peace History September 17-23

The National Negro Convention, a group of 38 free black Americans from eight states, met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with the express purpose of abolishing slavery and improving the social status of African Americans.

They elected Richard Allen president and agreed to boycott slave-produced goods and encourage free-produce organizations. The most active would be the Colored Female Free Produce Society, which urged the boycott of all slave-produced goods.

The Encyclopedia of African-American Heritage, by Susan Altman, Copyright 1997, Facts on File, Inc. New York [Excerpt]

September 20, 1830

On this date in 1830, the National Negro Convention met in Philadelphia, PA. This group gathered for the express purpose of abolishing slavery and improving the status of African Americans.

This first meeting of the National Negro Convention would initiate a trend that would continue for the next three decades.

The formation of another organization had been recommended one which would be called the "American Society of Free Persons of Labor." This group would branch out to several states and hold their own conventions.

These, in turn, would lead to the formation of other organizations. The number of conventions, held at local, state, and national levels, blossomed to such a level that, in 1859, one paper would report that "colored conventions are almost as frequent as church meetings."

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**“Prisoners Across The Country
Took Part In A National Strike To
Protest Terrible Conditions,
Violence And Forced Labor, And
To Demand Their Rights As
Workers”**

**“We’re Saying This As Prisoners”
“It’s A New Day”**



A crew of incarcerated workers on the job. (End Prison Slavery in Texas)

September 13, 2016 by Lee Wengraf, Socialist Worker

On September 9, which was also the 45th anniversary of the 1971 Attica Prison uprising, prisoners across the country took part in a national strike, withholding their labor to protest terrible conditions, violence and forced labor, and to demand their rights as workers.

Strike organizers told Democracy Now! that they anticipated actions in at least 24 states at more than 40 facilities.

Though it was impossible to confirm the scope of the strikes and actions for obvious reasons, reports began to emerge from behind prison walls across the country last week.

Prisoners at Holman Prison in Atmore, Alabama, refused to report to work, and North Carolina prisoners got word out that others had joined the strike. There was also strike action at Otisville Correctional Facility in New York.

Incarcerated women at the Central California Women's Prison in Chowchilla, California, and Fluvanna Prison in Troy, Virginia, stopped work. WikiLeaks whistleblower Chelsea Manning also began a hunger strike on September 9.

Other actions, typically characterized as "riots" by the media, were reported. In South Carolina, a maximum-security prison was locked down after a protest involving a group of 30 prisoners.

"They snatched a few of my people up last night, locked up and transferred," one prisoner wrote in a report published at the Facebook page of the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), the main formation supporting the strike on the outside. "The prison officials' tactics of hitting us seems to have put fear in many of the others...But what I do know is that it has started something."

In the days and weeks before September 9, there were protests in Lincoln, Nebraska, and at Holmes Correctional Institute in Bonifay, Florida, with "unrest" reported at other North Florida prisons.

Earlier this year, prisoners in seven Texas prisons went on strike, and there were actions in Mississippi, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, Nevada, Louisiana, Pennsylvania and Indiana.

In Michigan, prisoners went on a hunger strike at three facilities where, according to Think Progress, officials served food contaminated by trash and rodent saliva.

IWOC, a standing committee of the Industrial Workers of the World, worked together with the Free Alabama Movement, Free Ohio Movement and other prison abolition and prisoners rights organizations to support the strike.

In a statement, it said participants in the strike:

“will withhold their labor from the jobs they perform that keep prisons functioning, such as laundry, janitorial, clerical, food preparation, plumbing, maintenance, grounds keeping and electrical work, as well as manufacturing and agricultural jobs prisoners are forced to perform for corporate profit. Many prisoners will also be continuing hunger strike action and engaging in other forms of resistance.”

The demands of the strikers vary from place to place.

Chief among them is access to medical care, education and services behind bars.

In Texas, for example, prisoners must pay \$100 to see a doctor. Prisoners are also taking a stand against harsh discipline meted out by guards, especially the use of solitary confinement as punishment, but also brutality and retaliatory guard actions.

Living conditions are notoriously awful, including massive overcrowding, rotten food, contaminated water and toxic chemicals. A particularly bad problem in Southern states is prisoners being forced to live in un-air conditioned cells where the heat index has been known to reach as high as 150 degrees.

Probably the major focus of the strike, however, is the issue of prison labor.

Across the U.S., nearly 900,000 prisoners work in prisons, for very little or no pay, according to The Nation.

As prisoners and solidarity activists have long pointed out, the U.S. Constitution's 13th Amendment that abolished slavery provides for what some call the "punishment exception," allowing unpaid labor to be imposed on those behind bars.

Corporations such as Walmart, McDonald's, Victoria's Secret, Nordstrom's and AT&T Wireless take advantage of outsourced prison labor. The vast majority of prisoners, however, work directly on upkeep and the functioning of the prison itself.

“Corporations Such As Walmart, McDonald’s, Victoria’s Secret, Nordstrom’s And AT&T Wireless Take Advantage Of Outsourced Prison Labor”

Prison labor is a \$2 billion a year industry, reports The Intercept: "Most able-bodied prisoners at federal facilities are required to work, and at least 37 states permit contracting prisoners out to private companies, though those contracts account for only a small percentage of prison labor."

As the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee describes, "Prisoners are often dangled the carrot of good time pay, which is supposed to credit prisoners for shifts worked by having them be released sooner. The reality is that in many cases prisoners are not credited good time pay release."

Wages can be withheld by prison officials for the ostensible purpose of covering prisoners' room and board.

As a report published at TruthOut.org described, "Whatever remains goes toward buying the necessary commissary items for making life in prison tolerable. Essentials like toilet paper, deodorant, menstrual products and laundry detergent can each cost multiple days' wages."

Not surprisingly, working conditions are horrific--prisoners routinely report hazardous conditions and no safety equipment on the job. According to the Free Alabama Movement, "About half of the people fighting wildland fires on the ground for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection are incarcerated," numbering approximately 4,400 prisoners.

Planning for the strike began in April when prisoners from Ohio, Alabama, Virginia, and Mississippi said they would be part of a "nationally coordinated prisoner work stoppage against prison slavery." It was a sign of spreading organizing inside and collaboration with a range groups on the outside, such as Pastor Kenneth Glasgow's The Ordinary Peoples Society, IWOC and others.

In 2010, thousands of Georgia prisoners joined a work stoppage at several prisons. In 2013, a 30,000-strong hunger strike in California, which involved prisoners in solitary confinement among others, won some important reforms.

The Free Alabama Movement (FAM) was formed in 2014 with the first prison work stoppage in Alabama history. FAM is led by prisoners Robert Earl Council Jr. (also known as Kinetik Justice), Bennu Hannibal Ra-Sun (formerly known as Melvin Ray) and James Pleasant. They decided, as Council told In These Times, that "[t]he labor aspect is what keeps these places going, and that's the only thing we have control of. We began organizing around that."

In a 2015 manifesto called Let the Crops Rot in the Fields: A Call For New Strategy in the National Movement Against Mass Incarceration and Prison Slavery, the FAM emphasizes the importance of withholding labor.

Ra-Sun, who is incarcerated at St. Clair Correctional Facility in Springville, was put in solitary confinement as punishment for his involvement in the 2014 stoppage. "It's what they call soft touch or hands-off torture," Ra-Sun told Regina Willis writing for Waging Nonviolence.

"It's a small cell, it's filthy. It's hell. I mean it's literal hell, and they use it to torture people."

Ra-Sun said in an interview with SocialistWorker.org that retribution against prisoners continues today--but that others incarcerated with him have joined the strike in spite of the repression, and the mammoth difficulties of communicating and organizing across different facilities.

This is a conscious strategy, says Malik Washington of End Prison Slavery in Texas. "There are many Prison Authorities and Law Enforcement Officials who will attempt to characterize our movement as violent," Washington said, with the aim of trying to break down solidarity on both sides of prison walls.

“We’re Saying This As Prisoners: It’s A New Day”

The strike has reached prisons with a long history of resistance inside--like the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville, Ohio. A 1993 prison uprising ended with widespread repression, including the conviction five key organizers who were sentenced to death.

One of the five and a member of the Free Ohio Movement, Siddique Abdullah Hasan, was targeted with bogus terrorism charges in the lead-up to the September 9 strike action.

Greg Curry was also convicted in the aftermath of the 1993 uprising. Today, he is part of the strike movement, as he explained in an interview with SW:

“The beast (capitalism) must be defeated by challenges to its structure at the bottom, at the top, wherever it exists. So that’s why the strike is now and why I support it. (Lucasville) is a hybrid version of a Supermax prison so there is limited, closely monitored movement with access to just a small number of other prisoners, so we find ways to communicate...

“I’m okay with measuring the movement not necessarily in terms of how many people participate, but more so how sincere they are...Can those prisoners see the beauty of unity in the rewards of struggle?! For I know there will be another organized effort along our journey.”

The stakes in this struggle are high. Conditions for prisoners are nothing short of barbaric, and the danger of retribution is all too real.

At the same time, prisoners are emboldened by the growing calls for prison reform emerging on the outside, as well as the widening struggle inside. Azzurra Crispino of the IWOC said in an interview that there was "tremendous amount of support on the outside, with support actions taken in over 50 cities. On the inside, large numbers of units are on

lockdown, and we haven't heard from them yet...and we don't expect prison officials to acknowledge it."

Prisoners are setting their sights on the wider horizon--the need to uproot the system of mass incarceration as a whole. "On this the 45th anniversary of the heroic Attica prison uprising," declared a statement by Xinachtli at the James V. Allred Supermax in Iowa Park, Texas, "we honor the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in defense of freedom...[and call for] ultimate abolition of all capitalist for-profit prisons."

Curry, speaking on Block Report Radio, echoed the sense of hope and possibility:

"It's all coming together, prisoners saying: We're not taking this no more no more. Just as Black Lives Matter is in the streets, saying to the cops and to society: We're not having this no more. Same as the protesters at the DNC telling the powers that be there: We're not accepting, this ain't going down like this no more, it's a new day.

"We're saying this as prisoners: It's a new day."

Bay Area High School Team Follows Colin Kaepernick's Lead: Mission-San Francisco Takes A Knee During Anthem For Second Game In A Row; "The Protest Started Last Month By 49ers Quarterback Colin Kaepernick Continues To Spread Among Athletic Teams At All Levels"

September 16, 2016 By Darren Sabedra, The Mercury News

SAN MATEO — They were still standing when the band played the first few notes of the national anthem Friday night, huddled at one end of the field after finishing warm-ups.

Then, as they had done a week earlier, the Mission-San Francisco High football players took a knee.

They knelt during the anthem before their game at San Mateo as the protest started last month by 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick continues to spread among athletic teams at all levels.

“I am proud of the boys for thinking this through and taking a stand collectively,” Mission Principal Eric Guthertz said earlier Friday. “I think there are a lot of issues that our young men are facing in our society, particularly young men of color. I think, No. 1, they have their right to exercise their freedom of speech and speech could be taking a knee.



San Francisco’s Mission High School football team takes a knee, with the exception of one player, who held up a fist, during the national anthem before their game against San Mateo High School at San Mateo High School Friday, Sept. 16, 2016, in San Mateo, Calif. Jim Gensheimer/Bay Area News Group

“I actually think taking a knee is a pretty respectful way to speak out without being disruptive or disrespectful. I love the fact that they did this together and had each other’s backs.”

One Mission player who joined the team this week, kicker Duncan Lau, chose to stand while raising an arm during the anthem Friday.

“I stand with my team, with their cause and everything,” said Lau, in tears after his potential game-tying field goal just missed on the game’s final play. “I am 100 percent with them. But my grandfather was a colonel during World War II. He lost a lot of people for this flag. I’ve got to respect that. But I also want to respect my team and their cause.”

For the second consecutive week, Mission’s football team followed the hometown quarterback’s lead, which has put a spotlight on Kaepernick and beyond. Television crews descended on Mission’s campus during school hours Friday and at the San Mateo field Friday night.

The players from the diverse urban school — 50 percent Latino, 15 percent African American, 10 percent Chinese, nine percent Caucasian, according to Guthertz — knelt during the anthem Saturday at Redwood High in Marin County and stated their intention to do so again Friday.

Guthertz said he is not sure how long the protest will continue, adding that it is the players' call.

"I support them in whichever way they decide to go," he said.

Mission athletic director Arnold Zelaya is on board, too, noting the bond he has with the player who initiated the idea, senior Niamey Harris.

"Niamey and I are really close," Zelaya said. "He plays basketball for me. He's a very special kid. I knew how he felt about things. But when I saw the entire team do it, that's what I was most proud of. That was amazing to me, the team thing."

Charles Chase of San Francisco, whose son, Willie, plays on Mission's junior varsity team, said he was shocked when he saw the entire team kneel last week.

"I thought you'd see three or four people, not the whole team," he said. "I liked the unity of it."

Since Kaepernick planted the protest seed by sitting during the anthem before an exhibition game last month at Levi's Stadium and taking a knee during the anthem of subsequent games — citing a "country that oppresses Black people and people of color" for his actions — athletes of various races and levels have joined him.

Thursday, women's soccer player Megan Rapinoe knelt during the anthem while wearing a Team USA uniform, marking the second time this month that she has protested during the anthem — but the first with the national team.

"I truly feel like I am representing my country by doing this, in representing everyone that lives in this country, not just the people who look like me," Rapinoe told ESPN.

The anthem protests have funneled down to high schools across the country as reports of football players taking a knee during the song on the East Coast and the South have surfaced. But as the Associated Press reported this week, some players have faced consequences, including suspension and harassment.

One private school administrator threatened game and team suspensions if coaches or players protested the anthem.

"We are not public institutions and free speech in all of its demonstrations, including protests, is not a guaranteed right," Mary Boyle, superintendent of the Catholic Schools Diocese of Camden, New Jersey, wrote in a letter a diocese spokesman called precautionary, according to the Associated Press.

The football players at Mission — described on the school's website as the "oldest comprehensive public school in San Francisco" — don't have to worry about disciplinary action for their emulations of the 49ers' quarterback.

"We're a school that is focused on anti-racist teaching and social justice, and we have been that way for many years now," Guthertz said, noting a book about the school that was published last year, "Mission High: One School, How Experts Tried to Fail It, and the Students and Teachers Who Made It Triumph."

“This is a school that is very engaged in both the Black Lives Matter movement and other issues of social justice,” Guthertz added. “It’s been something that has been a part of the fabric of Mission High School for many, many, many years — this notion of social justice and equity.”

Guthertz is in his 16th year at the school that sits across the street from Dolores Park in the heart of San Francisco’s Mission District and ninth year as principal. He said he loves the school so much that he has a Mission bear tattooed on his arm.

“I am not only the principal, but I am also a proud parent,” he said. “I have a child here, a junior and an athlete herself. If she took a knee, I’d be proud.”

RESOLUTION Of The Roundtable Of Trade Union And Left - Wing Activists In Odesa [Ukraine], 10 September 2016:

**“This Draft Of New Labour Code
Predator And Anti-Worker One”**

**“It Includes The Cancellation Of
Prohibition Of The Establishment Of So-
Called ‘Probation Term’ For The Children
Of From 14 To 15 Years Old, Which Will
Inevitably Lead To Increasing Of
Children Labour Exploitation”**

Posted by workers September 18, 2016; <https://zahist.wordpress.com>

5 November 2015 the Parliament of Ukraine has adopted in the first reading the draft of new Labour Code.

As it became clear later, parliament speaker of that time Mr. Volodymyr Groisman has fooled MPs insisting that adoption of the Labour Code is EU demand for visa-free regime for the citizens of Ukraine.

Ukrainian trade union and left-wing activists immediately correctly declared this draft of new Labour Code as predator and anti-worker one.

Also we adopted the decision that independent trade unions should immediately take part in the work of the Working group of Parliament committee on the issues of social policy employment and pension provision for making impossible sharp worsening of the freedoms and rights of workers and trade unions via adoption of this draft of new Labour Code.

Unfortunately, real picture was completely different and very unpleasant.

The job of the Working group was absolutely hidden and opaque for Ukrainian society and independent trade unions, where the representatives of employers and sub-controlled to oligarchic influences “official” Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine (FTUU) in fact, betrayed the interests of wide layers of Ukrainian workers.

Because of extreme cloudiness of the Labour Code preparation for the second reading Ukrainian society still doesn't know, which propositions from the trade unions were taken into account by the profile committee headed by Mrs. Liudmyla Denysova.

At the present time we have the information that the most blatant and shameful norms of the Labour Code weren't changed and are being prepared for the voting in the second reading.

Even its brief list is very impressive:

Article 86 of the draft allows the possibility of outrageous mass firing of the employees under the employer's wish without any possibilities of their defense *свавільних масових скорочень працівників по волі роботодавця без жодних варіантів їх захисту*.

Article 92 of the draft lets employers fire workers, which serve financial and material values “because of losing the confidence”, even if it's not connected with the job.

Article 92 of the draft lets employers fire the worker, employed in the educational area for making “immoral deed”, even if this deed took place not at the work. It's clear that “morality” and “immorality” will be decided exclusively by employer.

Article 158 of the draft allows forcing of some categories of the workers to the job in holiday and festive days without their agreement.

The same Article 158 of the draft deprives the employees of the double-paying for job on holidays.

Article 65 of the draft lets the employers to move the workers to other workplace (even to other city) without their agreement.

Article 30 of the draft lets the employers to conduct the video and audio surveillance over the workers during the whole working day, roughly ignoring the basic human right for private life.

Article 108 of the draft deprives single mothers of presently existing defense and lets the employers to roughly fire them because of any reason.

Article 291 of the draft lets assign women with children to night work, the work on holiday and festive days and assign them to overtime work, depriving women with children from the guarantees of defense acting at the present time.

Article 58 of the draft sets the fact that labour contract is provided to the employee during 7 days since beginning of the work, i.e. it provokes the employers to using “fraud” schemes, where the employees will work 6 days for free and then will not be adopted for the work because “they’re not good enough for this job”.

One of the most blatant points is the norm of Article 12 of the draft, where all legislation volume of labour regulation, which falls outside the limits of the Labour Code, is transferred to so-called “employer normative acts”, which are adopted exclusively by the employer and should not be coordinated with trade unions.

Generally trade unions rights are considerably limited in this draft; and it could lead to immediate destruction of whole trade union movement in Ukraine because of impossibility of court and trade union defense from illegal firing. In particular, it’ll be possible to fire the employee without preliminary agreement of trade union committee.

As many as 52 article of the Labour Code draft determine the coordination of particular employer’s action with “trade union committee”, in singular form. Undoubtedly, it’s made for provoke the employers to establish their “pocket” trade union, consisted on third persons and “coordinate” with them all important issues of the labour process.

There are also not less terrible norms directed on worsening of labour conditions, including non-adult children, in the draft of new Labour Code.

In particular, it includes the cancellation of prohibition of the establishment of so-called “probation term” for the children of from 14 to 15 years old, which will inevitably lead to increasing of children labour exploitation and distribution of “fraud” schemes also in this area of labour relations.

The list of all problems of the draft of new Labour Code looks, under the opinion of roundtable participants, absolutely boundless.

Under our opinion, this draft makes considerably worse the rights and freedoms of the working people and will lead to its serious narrowing. This draft received 59 serious reproofs from the ILO, which almost were not taken into account; and even those minor points, which were taking into account, have decorative and non-important nature.

In accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, the Parliament of Ukraine has no right to adopt such laws, moreover, such “Labour Constitution of Ukraine”.

Thus, we resolutely and unanimously:

call the Parliament of Ukraine to immediately refuse of viewing of the draft of new Labour code in the second reading;

call the international left-wing and trade union activists and organizations for solidarity with our struggle against this anti-worker and anti-union draft of new Labour Code;

call all Ukrainian workers for mass protest actions against the adoption of new Labour Code.

We have to especially note that in Ukraine the time comes, when all functions of state and territorial inspections on the labour issues should be transferred to the controls of trade unions apt to coordination and even election of the chiefs of the labour inspections by trade unions itself as the most interested and the most objective in the realization of the policy of control over fulfilling of labour legislation, legislation of people's employment and general obligatory state social insurance, including to provide to the trade unions right to arrange the administrative reports regarding the violations of labour legislation by the owner or its administration representatives.

Adopted by the participants of the Roundtable of trade union and left-wing activists in Odesa, 10 September 2016 (32 signatures)

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Zionists Release Arrested Journalist,
Then Arrest Released Arrested
Journalist:**

**“Released Last March After He Spent
One And A Half Years In Administrative
Detention, With No Indictment And Trial”**



9-1-2016 The Palestinian Information Center

AL-KHALIL—

The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) at dawn Thursday kidnapped Palestinian journalist Osama Shahin, head of the Palestinian Prisoner Center for Studies, from his home in Dura town, southwest of al-Khalil city.

According to his family, Israeli soldiers and intelligence officers broke into and ransacked the house, interrogated Shahin for over one hour before confiscating documents related to his work and taking him in handcuffs to an undeclared place.

The Palestinian Prisoner Center for Studies strongly denounced the renewed arrest of its director, Shahin, affirming that he had been released last March after he spent one and a half years in administrative detention, with no indictment and trial.

Spokesman for the center Riyadh al-Ashqar said that Shahin was arrested once again due to his active role in defending the rights of prisoners in Israeli jails, appealing to human rights groups to intervene to have him released immediately.

Heroic Occupation Troops “In Large Numbers” Attack Palestinian Bulldozer

9.2.2016 The Palestinian Information Center

NABLUS—

The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) confiscated Thursday evening a Palestinian-owned bulldozer in an agricultural land in Beit Dajan village east of Nablus.

Head of the village council Nasser Abu Jaysh affirmed that Israeli forces stormed the village in large numbers and confiscated a bulldozer owned by a local farmer. For Palestinians living under illegal Israeli military occupation, violent repression is a quotidian burden.

Many Palestinians Gassed By Zionists Near Occupied Jerusalem

9.18.2016 The Palestinian Information Center

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—

17 Palestinian citizens on Saturday afternoon suffered suffocation and one clothing store went on fire after Israeli soldiers stormed Eizariya town east of Jerusalem and intensively fired tear gas and stun grenades at citizens.

The store owner said that soldiers randomly fired volleys of gas and stun canisters as they were chasing some young men, which triggered widespread fire in his store. He said his store sustained considerable material damage, accusing the Israeli occupation forces of deliberately targeting open stores during their raids in the town.

For its part, the Red Crescent said that its ambulance crews provided medical help for 17 citizens, who suffocated by tear gas during the events or inhaled fumes from the burning clothing store.

In a separate incident, Israeli police forces kidnapped on the same day a 15-year-old minor in Issawiya neighborhood in east Jerusalem on allegations that he threw stones at settlers' cars.

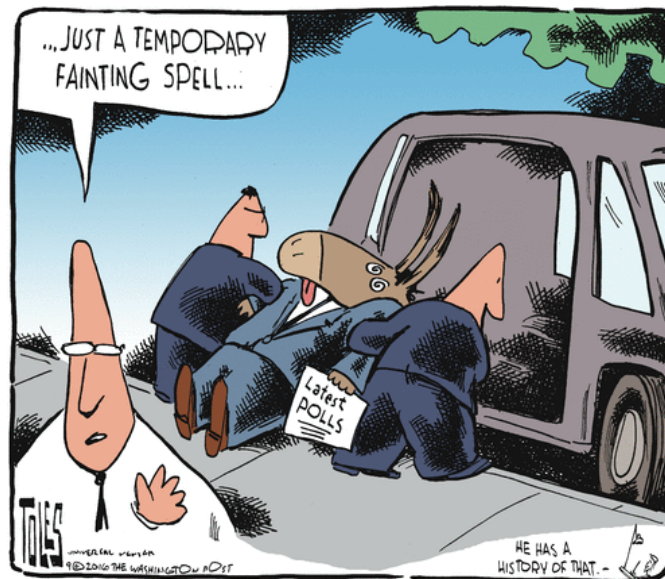
To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:

<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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