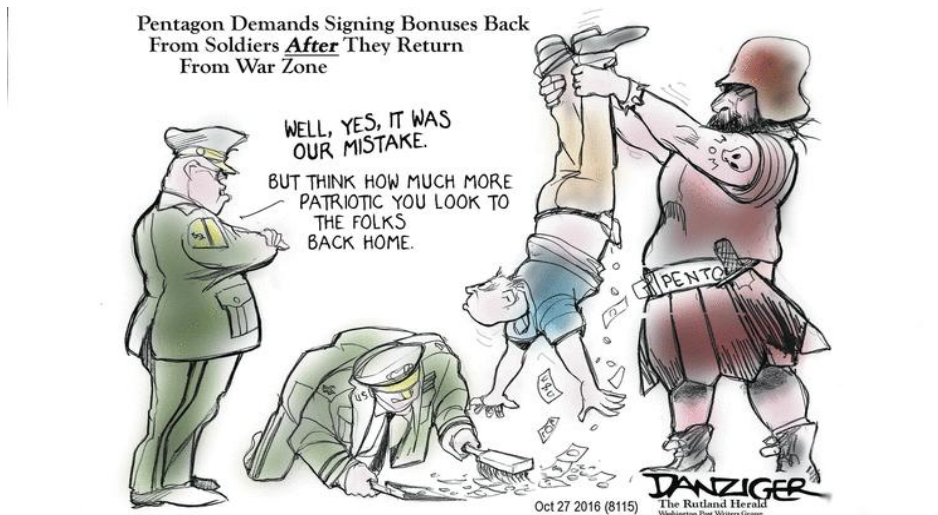


## **Military Resistance 14J9**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "The reason there are so many homeless vets is because an expired unit has no value."]

**Congress Knew For At Least Two Years About Pentagon Efforts To Claw Back Reenlistment Bonuses From Thousands Of Soldiers**

**"Congress Took No Action"**

**"It Is Outrageous To Hold These Service Members And Their Families Responsible For The Illegal Behavior Of Others"**

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Nuthin's too good for our troops and that's what they get--nuthin'. And then we take THAT away, too."]

25 October 16 By David S. Cloud and Sarah D. Wire, Los Angeles Times

The California National Guard told the state's members of Congress two years ago that the Pentagon was trying to claw back reenlistment bonuses from thousands of soldiers, and even offered a proposal to mitigate the problem, but Congress took no action, according to a senior National Guard official.

**The official added that improper bonuses had been paid to National Guard members in every state, raising the possibility that many more soldiers may owe large debts to the Pentagon.**

"This is a national issue and affects all states," Andreas Mueller, the chief of federal policy for the California Guard, wrote in an email to the state's congressional delegation Monday. Attention had focused on California because it was "the only state that audited" bonus payments at the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, he added.

In the email, Mueller reminded members of Congress that the Guard had informed them about the issue two years ago. Whether members of Congress understood the scope of the problem at the time is unclear.

The Times reported Saturday that the Pentagon has been demanding repayment of enlistment bonuses — which often reached \$15,000 or more — from thousands of California Guard soldiers, many of whom had served multiple combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Audits completed last month concluded that 9,700 California Guard members were not entitled to the payments or that there had been errors in their paperwork.

Pentagon officials acknowledged Monday that the problem probably extends beyond California.

"We know that the majority (of cases) is out of California. However, there may be other states involved," said Laura Ochoa, a Pentagon spokeswoman. "We do not have a list of those states at this time."

"The senior leadership of the department is looking very closely at this matter," Ochoa said. "We take doing right by our service members very seriously."

The possibility that more soldiers will have to repay large bonuses paid years ago, when the Pentagon relied heavily on the Guard to supply troops for two wars, may increase pressure on Congress to act.

In an interview, Mueller said a provision in a defense bill that has passed the House would have cured at least part of the problem by establishing a 10-year limit on how long the Pentagon could recover bonuses that had been paid improperly.

Final passage of that provision had been uncertain because of the money it would cost. Now, Congress may decide to go further.

On Monday, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi sent a letter to Speaker Paul D. Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell saying that Congress should pass legislation to halt the Pentagon debt recovery "as soon as we gavel back into session" after the Nov. 8 election.

“These brave Californians were willing to give everything to serve our country, and they earned every penny and benefit given to them,” Pelosi said. “The over-payment of enlistment signing bonuses by the Department of Defense should not be the responsibility of our service members or veterans to pay back, years after the fact.”

Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer of California sent a letter to Defense Secretary Ashton Carter insisting that the Pentagon had the legal power to forgive the soldiers’ debts without action by Congress.

“These men and women voluntarily reenlisted with the understanding that they would receive substantial bonuses,” the letter said. “The Department of Defense should use its existing authority ... to waive the repayment of these enlistment bonuses” and “help those service members who have already fully or partially repaid these incentives.”

California House members, led by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) and Rep. Ed Royce (R-Fullerton), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, sent a letter Monday to Carter asking that “further attempts to retrieve outstanding debt be halted.”

Both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump also weighed in on the controversy. Clinton, in a statement, said she was “appalled” by the news that the Pentagon was trying to take back the bonuses and said Congress should “swiftly pass legislation to right this wrong.” “These troops deserve our support and our deepest gratitude; they served admirably and upheld their part of the bargain. It is unacceptable to now subject them and their families to undue financial burdens thanks to mismanagement from the California National Guard and rigid bureaucracy on the part of the Pentagon,” Clinton said.

Trump, at a rally in Florida, called the case another example of wrongdoing in a “corrupt” political system. “This can only happen with these incompetent people we have,” he said. “No common sense. They’re incompetent.”

California Guard officials say they do not have the legal power to waive repayment. Soldiers can appeal to the National Guard Bureau, the Pentagon agency that oversees state Guard organizations, and to an Army Board for Correction of Military Records. In some cases, they say, those entities can waive some or all of a soldier’s debts.

“Unfortunately, the CalGuard has no ability to relieve debt, only the Army or Congress can short-circuit this process,” Mueller said in the email to lawmakers.

**The Pentagon appeals process was a “bottleneck” that “often takes more than a year” and “obviously creates extreme frustrations with the soldiers and their families,” he added.**

Mueller said the California Guard had previously “recommended that Congress speed up this Army process” and had sent draft legislation to do so to each California congressional office in 2014. In the interview, he said Congress had not acted at the time because of the cost.

In 2010, after reports surfaced of improper payments, a federal investigation found thousands of bonuses and student loan payments had been given erroneously to soldiers who did not qualify for them or were approved despite paperwork errors.

Army Master Sgt. Toni Jaffe, the California Guard's incentive manager, pleaded guilty in 2011 to filing false claims of \$15.2 million and was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison. Three officers also pleaded guilty to fraud and were put on probation after paying restitution.

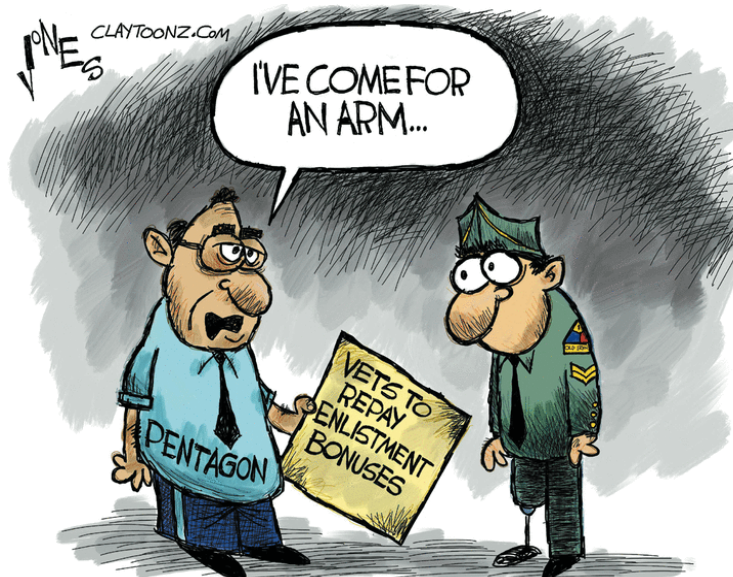
"Thousands of our service members are paying the price for mistakes made by California National Guard managers, some of whom are now serving jail time or paying restitution for their crimes," Feinstein and Boxer said in their letter.

"It is outrageous to hold these service members and their families responsible for the illegal behavior of others."

**MORE:**

## **What The Soldiers Say: "People Like Me Just Got Screwed."**

**"I Feel Totally Betrayed,  
"They'll Get Their Money, But I Want  
Those Years Back"**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "An eye for an eye."]

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

October 22, 2016 by David S. Cloud, Los Angeles Times

Short of troops to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan a decade ago, the California National Guard enticed thousands of soldiers with bonuses of \$15,000 or more to reenlist and go to war.

Now the Pentagon is demanding the money back.

But soldiers say the military is renegeing on 10-year-old agreements and imposing severe financial hardship on veterans whose only mistake was to accept bonuses offered when the Pentagon needed to fill the ranks.

“These bonuses were used to keep people in,” said Christopher Van Meter, a 42-year-old former Army captain and Iraq veteran from Manteca, Calif., who says he refinanced his home mortgage to repay \$25,000 in reenlistment bonuses and \$21,000 in student loan repayments that the Army says he should not have received. “People like me just got screwed.”

In Iraq, Van Meter was thrown from an armored vehicle turret — and later awarded a Purple Heart for his combat injuries — after the vehicle detonated a buried roadside bomb.

Susan Haley, a Los Angeles native and former Army master sergeant who deployed to Afghanistan in 2008, said she sends the Pentagon \$650 a month — a quarter of her family’s income — to pay down \$20,500 in bonuses that the Guard says were given to her improperly.

“I feel totally betrayed,” said Haley, 47, who served 26 years in the Army along with her husband and oldest son, a medic who lost a leg in combat in Afghanistan.

Haley, who now lives in Kempner, Texas, worries they may have to sell their house to repay the bonuses. “They’ll get their money, but I want those years back,” she said, referring to her six-year reenlistment.

Robert Richmond, an Army sergeant first class then living in Huntington Beach, said he reenlisted after being told he qualified for a \$15,000 bonus as a special forces soldier.

The money gave him “breathing room,” said Richmond, who had gone through a divorce after a deployment to Afghanistan in 2002 and 2003.

In 2007, his special forces company was sent to the Iraqi town of Hillah, 60 miles south of Baghdad in an area known as the “Triangle of Death” because of the intense fighting.

**Richmond conducted hundreds of missions against insurgents over the next year. In one, a roadside bomb exploded by his vehicle, knocking him out and leaving him with permanent back and brain injuries.**

**He was stunned to receive a letter from California Guard headquarters in 2014 telling him to repay the \$15,000 and warning he faced “debt collection action” if he failed to comply.**

Richmond should not have received the money, they argued, because he already had served 20 years in the Army in 2006, making him ineligible.

Richmond, 48, has refused to repay the bonus. He says he only had served 15 years when he reenlisted, due to several breaks in his Army service.

He has filed appeal after appeal, even after receiving a collection letter from the Treasury Department in March warning that his “unpaid delinquent debt” had risen to \$19,694.62 including interest and penalties.

**After quitting the California Guard so the money wouldn’t be taken from his paycheck, he moved to Nebraska to work as a railroad conductor, but was laid off.**

**He then moved to Texas to work for a construction company, leaving his wife and children in Nebraska. With \$15,000 debt on his credit report, he has been unable to qualify for a home loan.**

**“I signed a contract that I literally risked my life to fulfill,” Richmond said bitterly. “We want somebody in the government, anybody, to say this is wrong and we’ll stop going after this money.”**

Robert D’Andrea, a retired Army major and Iraq veteran, was told to return a \$20,000 bonus he received in 2008 because auditors could not find a copy of the contract he says he signed.

Now D’Andrea, a financial crimes investigator with the Santa Monica Police Department, says he is close to exhausting all his appeals.

“Everything takes months of work, and there is no way to get your day in court,” he said. “Some benefit of the doubt has to be given to the soldier.”

Bryan Strother, a sergeant first class from Oroville north of Sacramento, spent four years fighting Guard claims that he owed \$25,010.32 for mistaken bonuses and student loans.

Guard officials told Strother he had voided his enlistment contract by failing to remain a radio operator, his assigned job, during and after a 2007-08 deployment to Iraq.

Strother filed a class-action lawsuit in February in federal district court in Sacramento on behalf of all soldiers who got bonuses, claiming the California Guard “conned” them into reenlisting.

The suit asked the court to order the recovered money to be returned to the soldiers and to issue an injunction against the government barring further collection.

In August, Strother received a letter from the Pentagon waiving repayment of his bonus.

“We believe he acted in good faith in accepting the \$15,000,” a claims adjudicator from the Pentagon’s Defense Legal Services Agency wrote in the letter. He still owed \$5,000 in student loan repayments, it said.

Within weeks, lawyers for U.S. Atty. Phillip A. Talbert in Sacramento petitioned the court to dismiss Strother’s lawsuit, arguing that it was moot since most of his debt had been waived. A federal judge is supposed to rule on the government’s motion by January.

“It’s a legal foot-dragging process to wear people out and make people go away,” said Strother. “It’s overwhelming for most soldiers.”

**Indeed, some have just given up, repaying the money even before exhausting their appeals.**

“It was tearing me up, the stress, the headaches,” said Van Meter, the former Army captain from Manteca who paid off his \$46,000 debt by refinancing his mortgage. “I couldn’t take it anymore. The amount of stress it put us through financially and emotionally was something we wanted to move past.”

**MORE:**

## **California National Guard Reports Puzzling Increase In Suicides: “‘We Can’t Use Soldiers As Political Props If They’re Dead, So We Absolutely Need To Fix This,’ Said One Congressman” “The California Guard Had Also Asked Widows Of Fallen Soldiers To Repay Their Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) Due To A Clerical Error”**

October 25, 2016 Duffle Blog

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California National Guard officials expressed alarm on Tuesday at a sudden and unexplained increase in suicides within its ranks.

“We went from an average rate of one death per day to 15 all of sudden,” said Capt. Landon Thomas, a spokesperson for the Guard. “It’s nuts. We had to call in our AGR guys to work five whole days a week until we figure it out.”

Maj. Gen. David Baldwin, the Adjutant General for California, vowed to take action against the unexplained epidemic.

“We are ordering all soldiers to repay any bonus money received in the past 20 years,” he told reporters on Monday.

“These funds will be used to create emergency suicide prevention briefings. My lieutenants are working on the slides as we speak.”

Still, many soldiers are standing by their units despite the problems. Sgt. Tony Jones, a squad leader in the California Guard, interrupted his re-enlistment ceremony to speak with reporters. “I’m re-upping because I have faith in my command,” he said.

“Our website says that ‘we take care of soldiers and their families,’ and ‘we deliver on our commitments,’ so I know we’ll do the right thing.”

Jones went on to explain that he has great faith in holding true to his military contract and is absolutely certain the Guard would do the same, even if it makes some sort of inexplicable mistake like overpay him a bunch of money without his knowledge.

“We can’t use soldiers as political props if they’re dead, so we absolutely need to fix this,” said one congressman about the issue, which he said he had no knowledge of whatsoever.

“Although we can still use Gold Star families.”

In an unrelated story, the California Guard had also asked widows of fallen soldiers to repay their Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) due to a clerical error.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Taliban Overruns Military Base In Uruzgan:**

**“The Taliban Fighters Clearly Are Not  
Concerned About Either An Afghan  
Army Counterattack Or Airstrikes”**



October 27th, 2016 BY BILL ROGGIO, The Long War Journal. [Excerpts] Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of The Long War Journal.

The Taliban took control of a military base in the embattled southern province of Uruzgan, where the group has recently laid siege to the capital of Tarin Kot.

The jihadist group claimed it took control of the “strategic military base in Khushdeer” and two others in Chora district after Afghan troops were surrounded and then subsequently “fled towards the district center.”

In a statement released on its website, Voice of Jihad, the Taliban showed a picture of the base with the Taliban’s flag flying over it.

**On Twitter, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid then released a video of an interview of fighters from the base. Like the recent ambush in Helmand’s capital, the Taliban fighters clearly are not concerned about either an Afghan Army counterattack or airstrikes. The interview takes place in broad daylight, hours after the base was overrun (the Taliban claimed the Afghan troops fled during the nighttime).**

Uruzgan has been hotly contested for more than a year. Of the province’s six districts, one, Char Chino, is under Taliban control, and the remaining five are heavily contested. The Taliban seized Char Chino in June 2016 after Afghan forces conducted a tactical retreat.

The Taliban considers Uruzgan to be a strategic province, and has previously said that it controls all areas of the province except for the district centers.

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## **Taliban Gain Ground In Afghanistan As Regime Soldiers Surrender Their Posts: “The Taliban Have Taken More Territory In Afghanistan This Year Than At Any Time In Their 15-Year Struggle Against The Western- Supported Afghan Government”**

# “Scores Of Regular Afghan Soldiers Surrendered In The Past Week”

OCTOBER 30, 2016 The Nation

**KANDAHAR:** Besieged Afghan officials in the southern province of Oruzgan said on Sunday that scores of regular Afghan soldiers had surrendered in the past week to the Taliban, a trend also occurring recently in other provinces, The New York Times reported today.

The latest case involved 41 Afghan National Army soldiers who surrendered and turned their base, the Mashal base in Chora District, over to the insurgents on Saturday night, according to Dost Mohammad Nayab, the spokesman for the province’s governor.

He said it was the third Afghan Army post in the province to surrender to the Taliban in the past week. Significant surrenders have been reported in Kunduz and Helmand Provinces as well.

The Taliban have taken more territory in Afghanistan this year than at any time in their 15-year struggle against the Western-supported Afghan government, according to United Nations data.

At the same time, the Afghan military has suffered declining numbers and high attrition rates, according to data from the United States military. Afghan officials have said military casualty rates are historically high.

Lately, the Taliban insurgents have begun regularly uploading videos showing captured soldiers, boasting of treating them well and allowing them to return to their families as long as they promise not to rejoin the fight.

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## Resistance Action



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

Oct 29 2016 By Khaama Press

A car bomb attack rocked Kandahar province in southern Afghanistan, leaving at least one police dead and three others wounded, including a senior police officer.

According to the local security officials, the bomber targeted the police chief of Police District#9 Haji Farid.

Provincial police spokesman Zia Durani said one policeman lost his life in the attack and three others were wounded but Haji Farid survived the attack unhurt.

But another official speaking on the condition of anonymity said Haji Farid sustained minor injuries in the attack.

The official further added that a Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) was detonated as the vehicle convoy of the police forces was crossing the PD#9 of Kandahar city.

\*\*\*\*\*

Oct 29 2016 By Khaama Press

An explosion rocked Kabul city late on Friday afternoon leaving at least 2 Army soldiers wounded, the officials said.

The incident took place in the vicinity of 5th police district of the city targeting a vehicle of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces.

According to the security officials, a magnetic bomb planted in the vehicle of the Armed forces was detonated.

This comes as the anti-government armed militant groups have been widely using magnetic bombs in the city during the recent months to target the Afghan security and government officials.

One person was wounded in a similar attack which targeted the vehicle of the Afghan army in the 15th police district of the city.

Earlier, one person was wounded in a similar incident that took place in the vicinity of Taimani area of the city.

The security officials in Kabul said the bomb was planted in a vehicle belonging to the traffic police and a driver of the traffic department was killed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Oct 25 2016 By Khaama Press

The Afghan border police forces have suffered casualties in an attack on security posts located along Torkham near Pakistan, the local officials in Nangarhar said Tuesday.

The provincial governor's spokesman in Nangarhar Atullah Khogyani confirmed the incident took place late on Monday night but he did not disclose further information regarding the casualties of the security forces.

However, another official in Torkham said at least 8 personnel of the border protection police forces lost their lives in the attack.

\*\*\*\*\*

Oct 23, 2016 By Khaama Press

An explosion took place in the vicinity of 15th police district of Kabul city earlier today leaving at least one person wounded.

The security officials confirmed an magnetic bomb targeted a vehicle belonging to an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier.

The officials further added that the blast partially damaged the vehicle and left the driver of the vehicle wounded who was taken to hospital and his health condition is satisfactory.

This comes as one person was wounded in a similar incident that took place in the vicinity of Taimani area of the city last week.

At least one person was killed and two others were wounded in a similar incident in Karte Naw area of the city nearly ten days ago.

The security officials in Kabul said the bomb was planted in a vehicle belonging to the traffic police and a driver of the traffic department was killed.

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## **“The Death Rate Among Afghan Security Forces Is Surging Far Above Last Year’s Levels”**

### **“2015 Was A Terrible Year”**

### **“But The Death Toll This Year Is Already Much Worse”**

October 31, 2016 Agence France-Presse

The death rate among Afghan security forces is surging far above last year’s levels, a US government watchdog said on Sunday, and slew of social gains in the war-torn nation is also eroding.

The toll on the local forces has been devastating.

2015 was a terrible year, with an estimated 5,000 killed and another 15,000 wounded, primarily by the Taliban.

But the death toll this year is already much worse: From Jan.1 through Aug.19, a total of 5,523 Afghan service members were killed, according to a quarterly report from the office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR).

An additional 9,665 members were wounded during the same period, the report found.

**Violence from the Taliban and other insurgent groups typically spikes over the summer during the “fighting season.”**

**But increasingly, militants continue launching attacks throughout the year, meaning the death rate will likely rise further still.**

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## **U.S. General Blames Death Toll For Afghan Forces On Poor Afghan Leadership**

October 24, 2016 Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

The top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan says basic leadership failures in many Afghan police and military units have resulted in higher casualty tolls among Afghan troops.

U.S. Army General John Nicholson made the remark to reporters in Kabul on October 23 as Afghan forces neared the end of their second year in charge of security across the country.

Nicholson said street-level Afghan troops were performing as best they could, but were frequently vulnerable because Afghan commanders sometimes didn't provide them with basic supplies needed to fight Taliban militants and the Islamic State (IS) extremist group.

**Nicholson said that “young police officers who are out dying on the checkpoints don't always have enough food, or water, or ammunition and their leader may not be with them.”**

**He said problems were primarily within the command of the Afghan National Police but also existed, to a lesser extent, within the Afghan National Army.**

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## **The U.S. Spent \$3 Billion Building Roads In Afghanistan:**

**“95% Of The Sections Of Road Inspected Were Either Damaged Or Destroyed; 85% Were Maintained Either Poorly Or Not At All”  
“Development Dollars Often Lined The Pockets Of Insurgents, Shady Contractors And Corrupt Government Officials”**

October 30 By Erin Cunningham, Washington Post

KABUL — Thirteen years ago, the United States called the reconstruction of the Kabul-Kandahar highway “the most visible sign” of efforts to rebuild Afghanistan.

But today, that stretch of road is no longer a sign of progress.

Instead, it is now littered with craters from bombs and insurgent checkpoints and is “beyond repair,” an Afghan official said, and it is a symbol of the failed U.S. intervention here.

A report released Saturday by a U.S. government oversight body paints a grim picture of the state of Afghanistan’s roads, including the roughly 10,000 miles that were constructed, paved, repaired or funded by the United States.

The new roads were hailed as key to bringing economic growth and security, even when they eventually became too dangerous for travel.

**Now, the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) says 95 percent of the sections of road it inspected were either damaged or destroyed. And 85 percent were maintained either poorly or not at all.**

**The U.S. government has spent nearly \$3 billion on road projects in Afghanistan, which had only 50 miles of paved road in 2001. But according to an estimate from the U.S. Agency for International Development, it will cost more than \$8 billion to replace the country’s road infrastructure.**

The report from SIGAR identifies several reasons for the poor conditions, including government corruption, a lack of funding and insecurity along the highways, where criminals and insurgents menace travelers.

According to the Defense Department, Taliban militants control about a third of Afghanistan's 407 districts. Militants also extort money from construction crews, in exchange for a tacit cease-fire while repairs take place.

For some, incidents like this highlighted the flaw in U.S. efforts to forge ahead with massive infrastructure projects no matter the cost.

"It's easy to point to miles of paved roads as a metric for spending development dollars," military analyst Joshua Foust wrote for PBS.

But those development dollars often lined the pockets of insurgents, shady contractors and corrupt government officials. And roads have little benefit if they are controlled by militants or criminals.

Foust wrote in a report that this type of development "teases Afghans with the prospect" of infrastructure, which he says includes roads and hospitals, "but doesn't actually provide it."

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

**Fighting In Third Day As ISIS Attacks City Far From Mosul: Refugee From Battle Says "To Be Honest, Our Life (Under Is) Was Good" "There Was Justice" "When IS Overran The Village More Than Two Years Ago, They Only Registered Their Weapons And Were Allowed Them To Keep" "Iraqi Troops Seized Them"**

October 25, 2016 By: Sinan Salaheddin, The Associated Press. Associated Press writers Qassim Abdul-Zahra in Tob Zawa, Iraq, and Joseph Krauss in Baghdad contributed to this report.

BAGHDAD — Iraqi forces backed by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes battled Islamic State militants for a third day on Tuesday in a remote western town, hundreds of kilometers (miles) to the south of the operation to retake the northern city of Mosul, U.S. and Iraqi officials said.

The clashes underway in Rutba, in Iraq's western Anbar province, are apparently part of the extremist group's tactics to divert attention — as well as Iraqi and coalition resources — from the battle to retake Mosul from Islamic State militants.

“Fighting is ongoing in Rutba, which is still contested,” said Col. John Dorrian, a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition.

“The coalition continues conducting strikes to support the Iraqi security forces' response efforts, including one against a Daesh convoy that was attempting to flee the area,” he added, referring to IS by an Arabic acronym.

**Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool, an Iraqi military spokesman, said the situation was under control and there were no IS fighters in the town.**

**But Rajeh Barakat, an Anbar provincial councilman who sits on the security committee, said IS fighters were still clashing with security forces in two southern neighborhoods of Rutba.**

**“The clashes are still ongoing,” he said. “We have reports saying the militants killed some civilians and members of the security forces, but we don't know how many.”**

IS launched a complex attack on Rutba on Sunday, almost a week into the operation in Mosul, where U.S.-backed Iraqi forces are waging a wide-scale offensive to drive the militants from Iraq's second-largest city.

Last week IS launched a similar assault in and around the northern city of Kirkuk, some 170 kilometers (100 miles) southeast of Mosul. The wide-ranging assault ignited gun battles that lasted two days, killing at least 80 people.

Near Mosul, the fighting was still underway on Tuesday in a belt of villages and towns to the north, east and south of the city. Maj. Gen. Haider Fadhil said the Iraqi special forces had reached a village located 6 kilometers (4 miles) from the eastern edge of Mosul.

Also Tuesday, around 335 civilians were evacuated to a refugee camp from the village of Tob Zawa, about 9 kilometers (5½ miles) from Mosul, which was retaken by special forces on Monday, Fadhil added. He said the civilians were evacuated to protect them from possible IS shelling.

Among them was Ezzat Shaheen, who drove his car along with his wife and some of his 10 children. Others were left behind to take care of their land and cattle.

“To be honest, our life (under IS) was good,” said Shaheen, a 55-year old with white beard. “There was justice. There were clear principles —such as don't shave your beard



and pray in the mosque...etc— if you don't violate them no one will (bother) you,” he added.

Shaheen said he was able to sell his cattle and crops in the village or in Mosul without any problems, and that in return, he paid IS Zakat, an obligatory annual payment made by Muslims under Islamic law on certain kinds of property.

“Government-run schools were closed, but (IS-run) religious ones were open, and we had no clinic in the village, but we could go to Mosul for treatment,” he said, adding when IS overran the village more than two years ago, they only registered their weapons and allowed them to keep, but Iraqi troops seized them.

The U.S.-led coalition said it carried out several airstrikes in support of the Mosul operation, including five on Monday that destroyed 22 fighting positions, eight tunnels and nine vehicles, one of which was rigged with explosives.

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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.”**

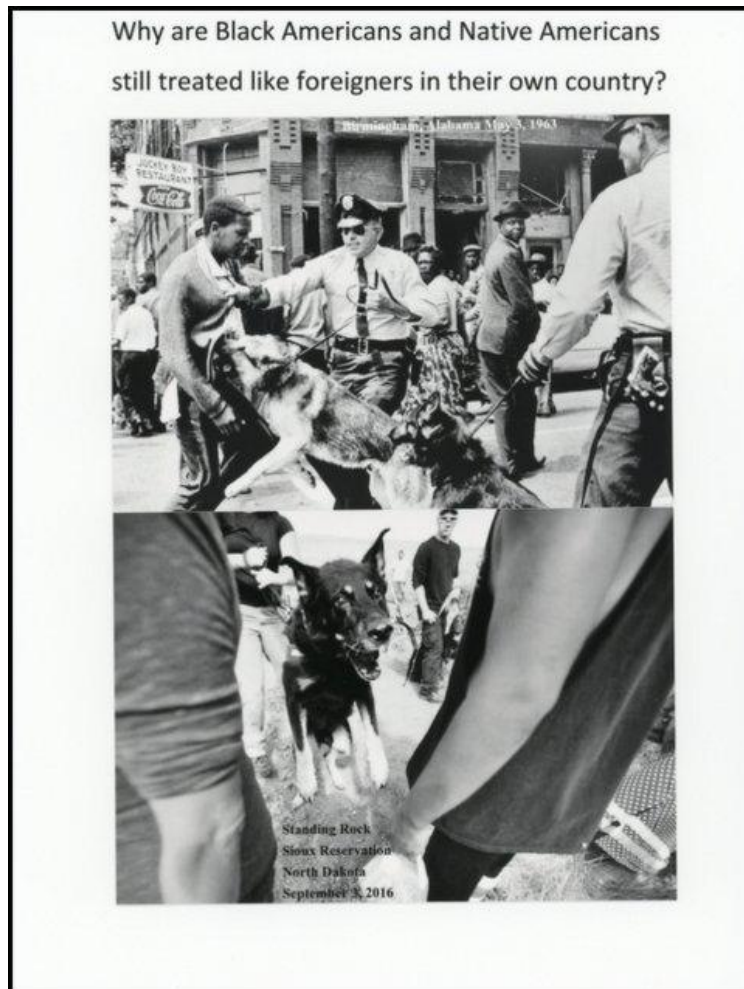
“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

But out of this complicated web of material and psychic forces one conclusion emerges with irrefutable clarity: the more the soldiers in their mass are convinced that the rebels are really rebelling – that this is not a demonstration after which they will have to go back to the barracks and report, that this is a struggle to the death, that the people may win if they join them, and that this winning will not only guarantee impunity, but alleviate the lot of all – the more they realize this, the more willing they are to turn aside their bayonets, or go over with them to the people.

And the highest determination never can, or will, remain unarmed.  
-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution

## Billboard?



From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: October 27, 2016 3:53 AM  
Subject:

I was playing around with these two powerful images, when I thought they might make a profound statement. I have thought for many years how so many minorities in this country are still treated like they are foreigners. Can you imagine what would happen if white people were attacked by police dogs in their own home towns?

Mike Hastie  
October 27, 2016

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

**“The British Vote To Leave The  
European Union Was A Bitter Blow  
For The Establishment, Big Business,  
The International Financial  
Institutions, The Rich And The  
Politicians”**

**“People Who Are Generally Forgotten,  
Ignored Or Sneered At Delivered A  
Stunning Blow Against The People At**

# **The Top Of Society; This Was A Rejection Of The Governing Class”**

6th October 2016 by Charlie Kimber, International Socialism 152 [Excerpt]

The British vote on 23 June 2016 to leave the European Union was a bitter blow for the establishment, big business, the international financial institutions, the rich and the politicians.

With only minor exceptions they had united to support a Remain vote.

Tory prime minister David Cameron had been very sure that he would win the referendum. That serene complacency lies in tatters.

Just a year after his unexpected general election success, the EU vote destroyed Cameron. Chancellor George Osborne, the hitman of austerity, was also forced out and contrary to much expectation, Boris Johnson did not become the Tory leader. The Leave vote tore apart the Tories and, although there will be a brief period of calm after the insertion of Theresa May as prime minister, there will be further trouble ahead.

But the Leave vote also revealed a much deeper bitterness and alienation from traditional political forces. Remain had the support of most of the Tory leadership, Labour, the Scottish National Party, Plaid Cymru, the Lib Dems, the Greens and Sinn Féin, parties that make up 97 percent of the House of Commons.

But Remain lost.

There have been real fears expressed that the vote was motivated mainly by racism—and there were people who voted Leave for racist reasons. But this was certainly not the most important factor that explains why 52 percent voted Leave (on a 72 percent turnout).

The central issue is that it was a revolt against the establishment.

People who are generally forgotten, ignored or sneered at delivered a stunning blow against the people at the top of society; this was a rejection of the governing class.

The vote was partly driven by bitter anger at the grinding and relentless attacks on working class people since the onset of the financial crisis.

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**“Even In Constituencies Where There Is No Prospect Of Our Candidate Being Elected, The Workers Must**

# **Nevertheless Put Up Candidates In Order To Maintain Their Independence” “They Must Not Allow Themselves To Be Diverted From This Work By The Stock Argument That To Split The Vote Of The Democrats Means Assisting The Reactionary Parties”**

**The gist of the matter is this: In case of an attack on a common adversary no special union is necessary; in the fight with such an enemy the interests of both parties, the middle-class democrats and the working-class party, coincide for the moment ...**

**This was so in the past, and will be so in the future.**

March 1850 By Karl Marx, Address of the Central Committee to the Communist League [Excerpts]

With a view to checking the power and the growth of big capital, the democratic party demands a reform of the laws of inheritance and legacies, likewise the transfer of the public services and as many industrial undertakings as possible to the state and municipal authorities.

As for the workingmen – well, they should remain wage workers: for whom, however, the democratic party would procure higher wages, better labor conditions, and a secure existence.

The democrats hope to achieve that partly through state and municipal management and through welfare institutions. In short, they hope to bribe the working class into quiescence and thus to weaken their revolutionary spirit by momentary concessions and comforts.

The democratic demands can never satisfy the party of the proletariat.

While the democratic petty bourgeoisie would like to bring the revolution to a close as soon as their demands are more or less complied with, it is our and our task to make the revolution permanent, to keep it going until all the ruling and possessing classes are deprived of power, the governmental machinery occupied by the proletariat, and the organization of the working classes of all lands is so far advanced that all rivalry and competition among themselves has ceased until the more important forces of production are concentrated in the hands of the proletarians

With us it is not a matter of reforming private property, but of abolishing it; not of hushing up class antagonism, but of abolishing the classes; not of ameliorating the existing society, but of establishing a new one.

**Even in constituencies where there is no prospect of our candidate being elected, the workers must nevertheless put up candidates in order to maintain their independence, to steel their forces, to gauge their own strength and to bring their revolutionary position and party views before the public**

**They must not allow themselves to be diverted from this work by the stock argument that to split the vote of the democrats means assisting the reactionary parties.**

**All such talk is but calculated to cheat the proletariat.**

**The advance which the Proletarian Party will make through its independent political attitude is infinitely more important than the disadvantages of having a few more reactionaries in the national representation.**

The gist of the matter is this: In case of an attack on a common adversary no special union is necessary; in the fight with such an enemy the interests of both parties, the middle-class democrats and the working-class party, coincide for the moment, and both parties will carry it on by a temporary understanding.

This was so in the past, and will be so in the future.

It is a matter of course that in the future sanguinary conflicts, as in all previous ones, the workingmen by their courage, resolution, and self-sacrifice, will form the main force in the attainment of victory.

As hitherto, so in the coming struggle, the petty bourgeoisie as a whole will maintain an attitude of delay, irresolution, and inactivity as long as possible, in order that, as soon as victory is assured, they may arrogate it to themselves and call upon the workers to remain quiet, return to work, avoid so-called excesses, and thus to shut off the workers from the fruits of victory.

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## Genocide

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: October 25, 2009  
Subject: Genocide  
Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2009

Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

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## Genocide

Take a bar of soap  
and stick it up his anus  
but it doesn't do any good  
as he defecates on the  
world  
So take a hand grenade  
stick it up his anus  
stand aside and watch  
him blow up like  
a suicide bomber  
the people think he is  
a terrorist and he is  
but that is one less  
of them  
to kill so many people  
It's time to scrub  
the world  
do some Elite Cleansing.  
Take the tide of raging men  
hang them from a rope  
a clothes line  
then take a broom  
called a 45  
cleanse both their ears  
from one side to the other  
it's called Elite Cleansing.  
It's been done by them  
many times to the poor  
or unwanted people  
so they can have it all  
like the Palestinian  
genocide in Israel today  
or the genocide of Indians  
in the past in the USA.  
But now the new name  
is Elite Cleansing  
take a brush that is  
a machinegun  
line them up in Time's square  
in front of everyone  
with the cameras on  
do some Elite Cleansing  
leave not one standing  
if they start to pray  
tell them there is no god.

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## ANNIVERSARIES

### October 31, 1978: Honorable Anniversary



Striking Iranian oil workers: Photo: December 1978 issue of Resistance, A publication of the Iranian Students Association in the U.S. (ISAUS)

Carl Bunin Peace History Oct 29-Nov 4

Thirty thousand Iranian oil workers went on strike against the repressive rule of the U.S.-installed Shah and for democracy, civil and human rights.

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## DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



"HAVE YOU TRIED GIVING \$12 MIL TO THE CLINTON FOUNDATION?"



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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

### **Occupation Torments Widow Of Dead Palestinian**

6/October/2016 The Palestinian Information Center

The Israeli permanent residency status in 1948 occupied Palestine of the Palestinian woman Khudra Masoud, the widow of Wael Abu Salah who was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers for allegedly carrying out an anti-occupation attack last June, was revoked, the paper affirmed. She will be thus deported to areas under Palestinian Authority control, according to the paper.

The ministry said that its unprecedented decision is a 'message of deterrence to Palestinian attackers and their families,' according to the newspaper.

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### **The Zionist Regime Must Stop Threatening To Defund Media Outlets:**

**“Israel’s Communications Ministry  
Appears To Have Its Crosshairs On  
‘Israel Social TV’”**

**“One Of A Very Small Number Of  
Independent Media Outlets Providing  
On-The-Ground Coverage Of Social And  
Political Struggles In Israel And  
Palestine”**

October 9, 2016 +972 Magazine

Communications Ministry Director-General Shlomo Filber said he plans to cut public funding to Social TV, accusing it of “subverting the foundations of the state, and providing a platform for the delegitimization of IDF soldiers.”

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Uri Ariel followed with a threat of his own — to revoke four national service positions allotted to the organization.

According to several reports, the two government ministries took aim at Social TV following a campaign by a group of right-wing IDF reservists that accused it of providing favorable news coverage to nonviolent actions against the occupation, including the all-female flotilla intercepted by the Israeli Navy last week, conscientious objectors, and the BDS movement.

Israel Social TV was launched as an independent media outlet in 2006 and is largely sustained by support from private and public foundations (it is reportedly one of 27 non-profits in Israel that will be singled out by the new NGO law). Only 8 percent of the organization’s budget comes from the Israeli Communications Ministry. It is also one of fewer than 40 percent of outlets that broadcast on Channel 98 (“The Community Channel”) that meets the criteria for public funding.

Israel Social TV responded by saying that if the Communications Ministry believes it has broken any laws with its broadcasts, that it should take action through the appropriate legal channels. The director-general’s lack of enthusiasm for the content of their programming, however, does not form a basis to cut its funding.

**These threats against Social TV must be seen as part of a sustained campaign by the government against the media in Israel, especially since the last elections.**

That campaign has included Prime Minister Netanyahu’s campaign to sabotage the nascent Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation, Defense Minister Liberman’s intervention in content broadcasted by Israel’s Army Radio, and the uptick in judicial gag orders and censorship by the IDF Censor.

**The Palestinian media, on the other hand, has for years been subject to acts of physical and structural violence at the hands of Israeli authorities.**

**This includes systematically restricting access and movement, shuttering entire media outlets (even those not suspected of incitement or other crimes), opening fire toward, assaulting and harassing journalists in the field, placing them in administrative detention, and more.**

Just as we have stood in solidarity with Palestinian journalists, +972 Magazine is proud to stand alongside our colleagues at Israel Social TV.

**We call on all media outlets in Israel and across the world, independent and mainstream alike, to speak out against the Israeli government’s threats against Social TV and any other outlet harassed or otherwise targeted for political reasons.**

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# Heroic Occupation Army Attacks Palestinian Shopkeepers

8/October/2016 The Palestinian Information Center

BETHLEHEM -- The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) stormed Saturday morning Doheisheh refugee camp, south of Bethlehem, and broke into several commercial shops which led to the outbreak of violent clashes.

According to the PIC reporter, Israeli forces stormed the camp early today and carried out raid and search campaign in local shops.

Surveillance cameras were confiscated during the raid.

Local youths responded by throwing stones and empty bottles at the soldiers who heavily used teargas bombs to disperse them.

Teargas inhalation cases were reported among the locals.

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

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



## YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2472 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025 or email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication.

Same address to unsubscribe.



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