

Military Resistance 14K7



**Million-Strong Protest Piles
Pressure On Thieving South
Korean President To Quit:
She Pressured Corporations To
Donate Money To Her
Foundation (!)**

**“People Are Literally Seething With
Anger”**

**“She Is Seen As Detached And More
Closely Allied With Big-Business
Interests Than Those Of Average
People”**



Demonstrators attend a protest against South Korean President Park Geun-Hye in Seoul on November 12, 2016 (AFP Photo/Jeon Heon-Kyun)

November 11, 2016 by Hwang Sunghee, Park Chan-Kyong; AFP & Nov. 13, 2016 By ALASTAIR GALE, Wall Street Journal

Seoul –

Pressure on South Korea's scandal-hit president to resign escalated sharply Saturday, with organisers claiming a million-strong turnout at one of the largest -- and loudest -- anti-government protests the country has ever witnessed.

Chanting "Step down Park Geun-Hye!" enormous crowds, including high school students, Catholic nuns, labourers, farmers, retirees and young couples with babies, massed in the streets of central Seoul in a powerful display of popular anger and dissent.

Ms. Park's family is as well known in South Korean politics as the Clinton and Bush dynasties are in the U.S.

To many Koreans, she is seen as detached and more closely allied with big-business interests than those of average people.

She rarely gives media interviews and relies on a small group of advisers for policy decisions.

Among the throngs of protesters were students angry at a lack of graduate jobs as blue-chip companies have moved much of their operations and hiring overseas to lower-cost countries. South Korea's 10 largest business groups accounted for only 3.6% of

employed workers in the country as of the end of last year, according to government data.

While police put the turnout at 260,000, organisers said one million people took part in what was the third in a series of weekly protests over a corruption scandal that has left Park fighting for her political survival.

Saturday's protest was also significantly swollen by a large contingent of trade unionists, who are angry about government plans to loosen labor laws to make hiring and firing more easy for companies, and farmers worried about reductions in government protection for agriculture.

South Korean farmers have in recent years opposed free-trade deals with the U.S. and China. On Saturday, some protesters held up banners criticizing the government for not propping up falling rice prices.

Meanwhile, as in the U.S. and U.K., cornerstone manufacturing businesses in South Korea, such as shipbuilding, have been hollowed out by global competition, triggering concerns about mass job losses.

On the back of official appeals for calm, police deployed around 25,000 officers, many of them in full riot gear, while police buses and trucks blocked every access road -- major or minor -- around the presidential Blue House.

As night fell, Seoul's main ceremonial boulevard Gwanghwamun became a moving river of flickering candles held by the banner-waving, slogan-chanting demonstrators calling on Park to quit.

"It was our wedding anniversary yesterday but we cancelled our anniversary trip and came to Seoul because we thought it was more important for our daughter," said Cho Joo-Pyo, who came with his wife and their two-year-old.

Cho's family had travelled from Jeonju, around 200 kilometres (120 miles) south of Seoul -- one of tens of thousands who travelled from cities across the country to participate in the biggest anti-government rally since the pro-democracy protests of the late 1980s.

The scandal engulfing Park for the past three weeks has focused on her close friend, Choi Soon-Sil, who is currently under arrest on charges of fraud and abuse of power.

Prosecutors are investigating allegations that Choi, 60, leveraged their friendship to coerce donations from large companies like Samsung to non-profit foundations which she set up and used for personal gain.

She is also accused of interfering in government affairs, despite holding no official position.

Lurid reports of the unhealthy influence Choi wielded over Park have seen the president's approval ratings plunge to five percent -- a record low for a serving president.

And Saturday's rally was a focal point for a litany of other complaints, from plunging rice prices to the government's handling of the 2014 Sewol ferry disaster.

One group dressed in traditional funeral gear carried a large “presidential coffin” covered with a banner reading: “Step down Park Geun-Hye, killer of agriculture, farms and farmers.”

The family-friendly protest was peaceful but sometimes reached deafening volumes as performers and activists whipped the crowds into a raucous frenzy from a giant stage.

“We’re so close to the Blue House. Let her hear us roar!” yelled one speaker who was rewarded with a massed bellow of approval.

In an effort to soothe public anger, Park has issued several public apologies, voicing her personal “heartbreak” at being the cause of such widespread anger and distress.

She has also reshuffled top officials and even agreed to relinquish some of her extensive executive powers, but the popular calls for her to step down have been relentless.

“She has apologised but I don’t think it was sincere,” said college student Ahn Ye-jin.

“As Korean citizens, it is up to us to bring about change in this country and that is why I am here today. Park has to go,” Ahn said.

Most experts have suggested the president, who has just over a year left of her single five-year term, will be able to ride out the crisis and remain in office, albeit with her authority and ability to govern seriously undermined.

Opposition lawmakers have largely avoided direct resignation calls and appear more interested in extracting further concessions from Park in terms of devolving power to the legislature.

But the sheer size and volume of Saturday’s demonstration will be impossible to just ignore.

“Judging from what I saw today, people’s resentment against her is simply too strong for Park to stare this down,” said Lee Yeon-Ho, a political science professor at Yonsei University.

“People are literally seething with anger,” Lee said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Taliban, Islamic State Both Claim To Have Shot Down Helicopter In Central Afghanistan:

“In The Past, The Afghan Military Has Attempted To Cover Up Taliban Attacks On Its Helicopters”

November 14, 2016 BY BILL ROGGIO, The Long War Journal. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of The Long War Journal.

Both the Taliban and the Islamic State claim to have shot down a helicopter in the central Afghan province of Ghor today. The Afghan military instead claims the helicopter made an emergency landing due to technical issues.

The Taliban, on its official website, Voice of Jihad, claimed it downed “a hireling helicopter while bombing the area.” The helicopter “was shot by Dshk (a heavy machine gun) and downed before landing in the said area, leaving all puppets killed or hurt inside.”

“It is worth mentioning that this is the second enemy helicopter being downed in Ghor province over the past one and half month,” the Taliban statement continued.

The Islamic State, on its Amaq News Agency, first claimed it shot down “a US helicopter gunship,” but later issued a correction that noted it took down a helicopter operated by “Afghan forces.”

Afghan officials in Ghor claimed the helicopter landed at a local airport after catching fire. “The helicopter made emergency landing due to technical issues and there were no casualties reported in the incident,” Khaama Press reported.

In the past, the Afghan military has attempted to cover up Taliban attacks on its helicopters. In March 2016, Afghan officials claimed a helicopter in Kunar province made a hard landing, while the Taliban claimed it destroyed it as it landed at a remote base. The Taliban later issued video footage of the helicopter exploding in a massive IED attack as it landed.

The Taliban and the Islamic State have issued competing claims for attacks in Afghanistan in the past. The Taliban is known to operate in Ghor province. The Islamic State was blamed for rounding up and killing 30 civilians in Ghor province at the end of October, however officials later said that a local Taliban commander was responsible. No group claimed credit for the October massacre in Ghor. The Islamic State has not shied away from claiming credit for mass executions, which increases the probability that the slaughter in Ghor was indeed carried out by the Taliban.

In the past, the Taliban has shot down several US helicopters using RPGs, or rocket-propelled grenades.

The most newsworthy strike took place in Aug. 2011 in the Tangi Valley of Wardak province. Taliban RPGs struck a US Army Chinook that was involved in a raid to capture a senior Taliban commander. That attack resulted in the deaths of 38 US and Afghan troops, including 17 Navy SEALs from SEAL Team 6, the unit that killed al Qaeda's founder and first emir, Osama bin Laden.

Also, on Dec. 17, 2013, a US Blackhawk helicopter went down in Zabul province, killing six US soldiers.

The Taliban claimed it shot down the Blackhawk. But the US military discounted the Taliban's claim and said in a press release that "initial reporting indicates there was no enemy activity in the area at the time of the crash."

Three weeks later, the US military told the families of the soldiers killed that "enemy action caused the crash and loss of life."

US Embassy In Afghanistan Closes After Attacks

Nov. 13, 2016 AP

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan has closed following deadly insurgent attacks on a German Consulate and an American military base.

In a statement late Saturday, the embassy says it will be "closed for routine services" Sunday "as a temporary precautionary measure."

The unusual decision comes after four Americans — two soldiers and two contractors — were killed in a suicide attack Saturday on the Bagram Airfield near the capital, Kabul.

Two days earlier, insurgents attacked the German Consulate in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, killing six people and wounding more than 100.

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul regularly warns Americans against travel to Afghanistan, where a Taliban-led insurgency is in its 16th year.

MILITARY NEWS

California Guard Never Paid Bonuses Of Up To \$20,000 It Promised To Interpreters In War Zones:

“Some Interpreters Were Put In Uniform Even Though They Were Too Old Or Had Health Problems That Might Have Disqualified Them From Military Service”

“Many Interpreters Were Only Partially Paid Their Bonuses Because The California Guard Later Decided They Were Unfit For The Military Service That They Already Had Given”

November 12, 2016 by David S. Cloud, Los Angeles Times

When the California National Guard desperately needed interpreters to accompany troops headed to Iraq and Afghanistan, it promised enlistment bonuses of up to \$20,000 each to dozens of Arabic, Dari and Pashto speakers.

The Pentagon’s need for critical language skills on the battlefield was so great that some interpreters were put in uniform even though they were too old or had health problems that might have disqualified them from military service.

That relaxing of the rules has come back to haunt them.

Many of the interpreters who went to war were only partially paid their bonuses because the California Guard later decided they were unfit for the military service that they already had given.

Some say they are now unemployed, suffering from post-traumatic stress and combat injuries sustained. Many are embittered at the California Guard, which they say broke its commitments.

“As far as I know, it’s only the interpreters who didn’t get paid,” complained Khatchig Khatchadourian, an Arabic interpreter from North Hills who says the California Guard still owes him half the \$20,000 bonus it agreed to pay when he enlisted in 2008. “They think we’re stupid because we are immigrants.”

The plight of the interpreters, known in military jargon as 09 Limas, offers a new wrinkle in the enlistment bonus scandal that has roiled the California Guard and the top levels of the Pentagon.

The Times reported last month that the Pentagon was demanding repayment of enlistment bonuses paid to nearly 10,000 California Guard soldiers at the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan a decade ago.

In response to a public outcry, and at the urging of the White House, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter ordered a suspension of the repayment program, and set up an appeals process to review the debts.

The California Guard has identified 44 interpreters who were affected by the shifts in recruitment standards or other problems, according to Col. Peter Cross, a spokesman.

“The complexity arose in cases where neither the soldier nor the Guard could locate a copy of any agreement, although work was done by the soldier that likely would have given rise to a bonus payment,” he wrote in an email.

Nearly half the 09 Limas deployed within the first year and then requested to go to the Inactive National Guard to work as private contractors, who normally were paid much more, Cross said.

That violated the bonus terms of their enlistment contracts, he said. To add to the confusion, soldiers serving in the same unit often enlisted under different terms and different bonus entitlements.

Enlistment bonuses for the 09 Limas also were blocked after California Guard auditors noticed that some interpreters had served in the Army even though they had failed to meet normal enlistment standards.

The translators say recruiters assured them that the 09 Lima program had eased recruitment rules so they could enlist even if they were too old, in poor physical condition or had scored too low on aptitude tests.

Before the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Pentagon didn’t recruit many soldiers who were fluent in Middle Eastern and South Asian languages, relying on contract interpreters instead.

But as the conflicts intensified, deploying combat units needed thousands of native speakers to communicate with Iraqis and Afghans on patrols or in meetings with local officials.

Although contractors were still widely used, the Pentagon wanted at least some interpreters in uniform who were trained as soldiers and who couldn't quit on short notice or refuse dangerous assignments.

To meet that goal, the Pentagon in 2006 ramped up the 09 Lima program. It offered special bonuses, eased enlistment standards and even accelerated U.S. citizenship applications for immigrants who agreed to join the Army.

National Guard recruiters, including California's, scoured the country for Arabic, Dari and Pashto speakers.

One of those who signed up, now a 47-year-old resident of Brentwood, near San Francisco, said the California Guard informed him in 2011 that he would not get his \$10,000 bonus because he had failed an aptitude test required of all Army recruits.

Yet his low score had not stopped the Army from accepting him in 2008 and sending him to Iraq.

Like several interpreters interviewed, he asked that his name not be made public, fearing public attention would further complicate his attempts to get paid.

He was in many respects an ideal 09 Lima recruit. The son of a Libyan military officer, he was a U.S. citizen because he was born at Ft. Benning, Ga., in the 1960s when his father was on a military exchange program.

The married father of three enlisted as an Arabic interpreter after losing his job in the 2008 recession.

Promised a \$10,000 enlistment bonus, he received half after completing boot camp but never got the rest despite his appeals, he said.

In Iraq from 2009 to 2011, he was close to bomb blasts and other combat while accompanying U.S. troops on missions, he said.

After he returned home, a Veterans Affairs doctor diagnosed him with mild traumatic brain injuries. He also needed shoulder surgery for non-combat injuries in Iraq.

When he left the Army in 2014, he gave up trying to get the bonus money. He is now in college using GI Bill benefits he is entitled to as a former soldier.

"I'm proud to have been in the service, but I don't understand why they would say you get this amount, then all of a sudden say you don't get it," he said. "I'm disappointed."

Another former interpreter, a 45-year-old resident of Glendale, was born in Iran and immigrated in 1998. He joined the Army reserves in California in 2008 after his truck business failed.

He deployed to Afghanistan in 2009 and spent six months translating for a Marine special operations unit in Shindand, an Afghan province that borders Iran. In 2010, he returned for a second tour.

“When I came back (home in 2011) I was mentally not stable,” he said. “I would get drunk at 10 or 11 in the morning until I passed out.”

When the Army Reserve rebuffed his claims for the unpaid half of his \$20,000 enlistment bonus, and for back pay he says he was owed, he contacted Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Burbank), his congressman.

Schiff’s office wrote the Pentagon, which partly backed down and sent the interpreter \$6,000 in back pay. He insists he is still owed the rest but he has lost documents to support his claim.

“It’s an honor to have served,” he said. “But that’s not enough. I have lost my hope in the whole government system.”

Khatchadourian was born in Syria and grew up in Lebanon before he moved to Los Angeles with his family in 2006. He joined the California Guard two years later, after finishing high school.

In return for a \$20,000 bonus, he agreed to sign up for three years as an Arabic interpreter. He planned to use the money for college.

“It was mixture of serving my country, something to do (and) money,” he said, recalling his motivation.

His bonus agreement, signed by Khatchadourian and his California Guard recruiter, reads, “I will receive a total bonus of \$20,000 ... less taxes.”

He got the first \$10,000 after he finished boot camp in 2009. He expected the remainder in December 2010, his second anniversary in the Army.

He was then in Iraq with the 224th Sustainment Brigade, a California Guard support unit based in Long Beach. He says he never got the check — or an explanation.

When he returned home in 2011, California Guard officials said they had found a problem with his enlistment contract. He would not get the second \$10,000 — and he might have to give back the first \$10,000.

Khatchadourian said he later learned that auditors flagged his bonus because he had failed to initial one page of an addendum to his contract.

In October 2015, after years of appeals, he received a letter from the National Guard Bureau, the Pentagon agency that oversees state Guard organizations, ruling that he was eligible for his entire \$20,000 bonus.

Khatchadourian “accepted an incentive offer in good faith and has otherwise fulfilled the obligations under the contract,” it read. “Therefore, withholding

payments of this incentive would be against equity, good conscience and contrary to the best interest of the military.”

A year later, he is still waiting for the money.

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

I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace

Trump's 'Big Victory' With 26% Support

November 11, 2016 by Phil Duncan, Redline

While Trump's victory is certainly an indication of widespread alienation from the political establishment in the United States, it is far from the main sign of alienation revealed by the election.

The total number of people in the USA eligible to vote is 231,556,622. Of these, 99,815,122 didn't vote. That's over 43%. That's by far the dominant form that alienation takes.

Donald Trump received only 59,791,135 votes.

He actually received almost 2 million fewer votes than Romney, the unsuccessful Republican candidate in 2012, although there may be some late totals which bring Trump a bit closer.

And, of course, he received several hundred thousand fewer votes than Hillary Clinton who took 60,071,781.

A close examination of votes from all over the States would be necessary to see whether Trump lost Republican votes in metropolitan centres but largely made up for such losses in smaller centres and rural across the country.

Nevertheless, of those eligible to vote in the election, Trump received about 25.8% of the vote.

What happened, primarily, was that Clinton lost votes compared to Obama in 2012. She received almost 7 million (6.8 million to be precise) fewer votes than Obama did in 2012.

So the second main sign of alienation was the decline in the Democratic Party vote.

Trump's was still an impressive achievement. After all, the Republican Party establishment didn't even want him to be selected as the party's candidate. Then, most of the US ruling class appears to have been against him in the presidential election itself.

So, the results were a slap in the face for both of them, although the US ruling class has plenty of checks and balances in place to prevent Trump from simply doing as he pleases – or as he has promised his supporters.

However, despite what more panicky liberal elements are suggesting – a tide of reactionary politics being unleashed – there simply was no big surge of support for the billionaire tax evader with a string of bankrupt companies, straying hands and idiosyncratic ideas about what US capitalism needs right now.

MORE:

“The Electoral College Is An 18th Century Holdover Written Into The Constitution ‘To Prevent Mob Rule’”

“It Is A System That Is Undemocratic Through And Through”

Nov 12, 2016 DW via Marxism

Hillary Clinton won the popular vote. In any democracy respecting the fundamental democratic principle of “one-person, one-vote, Clinton should have been elected president.

This was not to be.

For the second time in 16 years, a Democratic Party candidate won the popular vote (in 2000 it was Al Gore) but lost the election.

While Trump lost the national popular vote by more than 400,000 votes (absolute final tally is not yet in), he won the Electoral College by a wide margin: 58%, or 308 delegates, for Trump vs. 42%, for 230 delegates, for Clinton.

Why this disparity? Why this blatantly anti-democratic setup that denies One Person, One Vote?

The Electoral College is an 18th Century holdover written into the Constitution “to prevent mob rule” – which is the term that the “founding fathers” used to justify the Electoral College. The college was written into the Constitution of 1787.

The Electoral College provides a winner-takes-all formula for the selection of delegates – meaning that all the delegates in the state go to the candidate who wins a majority of the popular vote in that state. This disenfranchises all voters who voted for the candidates who did not win. It gives undue influence to smaller states, where voters in mainly rural areas with more conservative voters have a proportionately higher ratio of electoral college delegates. It also disenfranchises third parties, who have little chance of winning a majority in the state but who might be able to cast significant numbers of votes.

It is a system that is undemocratic through and through.

“Obama Lost Touch With His Revolutionary Side And Settled Comfortably Into Being An Ivy

League East Coast Cerebral Elitist Who Hung Out With Celebrities” “The Man Who Swept Into The White House In A Boisterous Rebellion Was Dismissive Of The Boisterous Rebellions In Both The Democratic And Republican Parties”

NOV. 12, 2016 by Maureen Dowd, The New York Times Company

WASHINGTON — YOU know how desperate President Obama is — as he contemplates all his accomplishments going down the drain at the hands of a man he has total contempt for — when he is willing to do something so against his nature.

He tried to *persuade* Donald Trump.

We saw that unicorn glimpsed only fleetingly in the last eight years: the cajoling Barack Obama.

The president flattered the president-elect by letting Trump rack up the ego arithmetic.

“This was a meeting that was going to last for maybe 10 or 15 minutes and we were just going to get to know each other,” Trump told reporters afterward, as they sat in front of the Oval Office fireplace. But, he marveled, “The meeting lasted for almost an hour and a half.”

And lo and behold, it worked — sort of. In his first post-election newspaper interview, Trump told The Wall Street Journal that he would consider leaving in place the parts of Obamacare that allow children to stay on their parents’ health plan until they are 26 and that prevent people from being refused insurance because of existing conditions.

“I told him I will look at his suggestions, and out of respect, I will do that,” Trump said.

Of course, those are two very popular elements of the law that Republicans wouldn’t dream of killing anyway. Still, President Obama’s charm and civility clearly made a strong impression, though it’s impossible to say when a nasty tweet will come in the middle of the night.

“I want a country that loves each other,” Trump told the paper. “I want to stress that.”

Harry Reid wasn’t in a kumbaya frame of mind, calling Trump “a sexual predator who lost the popular vote.”

Out of a hailstorm of unfathomable things during the week, one sticks out to me: How can it be that in the end, Barack Obama did not understand the Obama revolution?

He came away from that elated whoosh in 2008 not comprehending that many voters viewed him as the escape hatch from Clinton Inc.

It never would have occurred to anyone then — even the Clintons — that President Obama would be the one to brush away any aversions and objections, take us by the elbow, and firmly steer us back to Clinton Inc.

Voters waited in line for hours at those early Obama rallies because they wanted thunderous change. They wanted a newcomer who didn't look like the old dudes on our money, someone who would bust up the incestuous system and give us, as the poster said, hope.

But Obama lost touch with his revolutionary side and settled comfortably into being an Ivy League East Coast cerebral elitist who hung out with celebrities, lectured Congress and scorned the art of political persuasion.

He was cozy with Silicon Valley and dismissive of working-class voters anxious about globalization, shrugging that "We're part of an interconnected global economy now, and there's no going back from that."

He was dismissive of Americans anxious about terrorism after the Paris attacks, noting that you'd be more likely to die from a bathtub fall.

He was dismissive of Bernie Sanders and his voters, treating Sanders as a fairy tale, just as Bill Clinton treated him in 2008 when he was a senator with little record but with an army of passionate supporters who wanted to upend moldy politics.

Nudging Sanders and Joe Biden toward the exit, Obama was the ultimate establishmentarian. As he told the Rutgers student paper in May, "We have to make incremental changes where we can, and every once in a while you'll get a breakthrough and make the kind of big changes that are necessary."

The man who swept into the White House in a boisterous rebellion was dismissive of the boisterous rebellions in both the Democratic and Republican Parties. He insisted that an incrementalist and fellow Ivy League East Coast cerebral elitist who hangs out with celebrities would be best to save his legacy.

Even Michelle, who understands the importance of the visceral in politics better than her husband and who said in 2007 that the bid to usurp Hillary was about "our souls," tamped down hope. "Remember, it's not about voting for the perfect candidate," she told a crowd at La Salle University. "There is no such person."

The leaked John Podesta emails showed how deluded the campaign was about the insurgent mood of the voters.

In January 2015, Hillary's communications director, Jennifer Palmieri, advised Podesta: "Make a virtue of her longevity. Embrace all the Clinton-ness — the forty years in politics, the decades on the national stage."

As late as February, Hillary's chief strategist, Joel Benenson, was fretting that the candidate had no vision or message compared to Sanders: "Do we have any sense from her what she believes or wants her core message to be?"

As she cuddled up to Wall Street, Hillary forgot about the forgotten man — and woman. Bill complained in meetings that campaign manager Robby Mook was ignoring white working-class voters, according to Politico, but his concern was waved off as the plea of "a talented but aging politician who simply refused to accept the new Democratic map."

They should have listened. Bill ousted the first President Bush by focusing on "you" rather than "I," what the voters wanted. Hillary's campaign message boiled down to "It's my turn, dammit."

President Obama, trying to hoist Hillary over the finish line, offered a solipsistic message, saying it would be "a personal insult" if African-Americans did not vote for Hillary, and an accusatory message, suggesting that sexism was stopping men from voting for Hillary.

In September, Hillary stumbled when she dismissed half of Trump supporters as a "basket of deplorables." Tellingly, the snooty remarks were made at a high-dollar fundraiser hosted by Barbra Streisand and other sparklies at Cipriani Wall Street.

Hillary should have spent less time collecting money on Wall Street and more time collecting votes in Wisconsin.

DNC Aiming To Reconnect With Working-Class Americans With New 'Hamilton'-Inspired Lena Dunham Web Series



November 15, 2016 The Onion

WASHINGTON—Saying the new effort would help them make critical inroads with low-income rural voters following a stunning election loss last week, the Democratic National Committee announced the launch of a new Hamilton-inspired web series Tuesday starring Lena Dunham intended to connect with working-class Americans and address their most pressing concerns.

“We’re hoping to make up the ground we lost with white working-class voters and union members who once made up our base with a new 10-part hip-hop musical set in rural Wisconsin, featuring a down-on-her-luck manufacturing worker played by Lena Dunham,” said DNC interim chair Donna Brazile, who added that, in an effort to appeal to economically distressed voters, each episode would see the protagonists tackle a different theme, such as taxes or free trade, through the choreography of five-time Tony winner Susan Stroman.

“We are confident that with the help of Josh Gad, Debra Messing, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, and the creative team behind The Mindy Project, we can bring Americans who feel like they have been left behind by globalization back to the Democratic Party.

Viewers will also have the chance to win a trip to be in the audience at a live TED Talk taping if they share the series on Instagram, which we believe will draw considerable interest across the nation’s heartland.”

Brazile added that the web series would be available exclusively through Seeso and HBO Go

YOUR INVITATION:

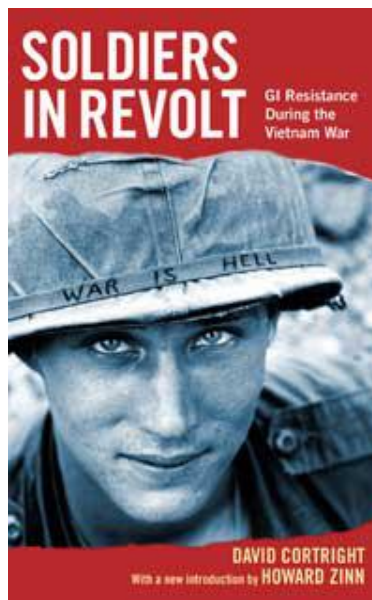
Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2472 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

How To Stop A War:

“On April 27 [1968] A Group Of Forty Active-Duty People Marched At The Head Of An Anti-War Demonstration

In San Francisco, The First Time GIs Led A Civilian Peace Rally”

“On February 16, 1969, The Alliance
Sponsored A Peace Rally In Downtown
Seattle, With Two Hundred Active- Duty
People Leading A Crowd Of Several
Thousand”



[No, they didn't go to DC begging the Imperial Congress to stop the war. They knew that when the army rebelled, the war would end. They did, and it did. T]

Excerpts from: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975.

The young people forced into the ranks by the Vietnam build-up expressed a sometimes articulate, sometimes desperate, opposition to an unwanted mission.

The GI movement imbued the military with the voice of a troubled citizenry, providing a measure of democratic restraint on though otherwise unresponsive and imperious institutions of war.

The appearance of coffeehouses and a burgeoning GI press, in an atmosphere of mounting disillusionment over stalemate in Vietnam, set the stage for the first significant GI action.

The Army's huge armored training center at Fort Hood experienced a particularly rapid deterioration of troop morale, especially among combat returnees, and throughout the Vietnam period witnessed extensive unrest and drug use (the base's copious marijuana supplies earned it the sobriquet "Fort Head").

The civilians who opened the Oleo Strut in the summer of 1968 thus met with an enthusiastic response; with the founding of Fatigue Press, a long history of successful GI activism began.

The first political gathering of Fort Hood soldiers occurred in Killeen on July 5, 1968.

A "Love-In" and countercultural festival was held in Condor Park, featuring rock music and anti-war speeches; approximately two hundred soldiers attended, most of them white.

The atmosphere at the base grew considerably tenser in the following weeks, however, as thousands of troops were prepared for possible use against civilian demonstrators at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago — culminating in a dramatic and important act of political defiance among black troops.

On the evening of August 23, over one hundred black soldiers from the 1st Armored Cavalry Division gathered on base to discuss their opposition to Army racism and the use of troops against civilians.

After a lengthy, all-night assembly, which included a visit from commanding general Powell, forty-three of the blacks were arrested for refusal to follow orders.

The action of the blacks was spontaneous and unrelated to the work of the white soldiers (reflecting a common pattern of parallel but separate development of dissent among blacks and whites), but the Oleo Strut GIs supported the brothers and helped with their legal defense.

Because of widespread support for the resisters, especially among blacks, the Army's treatment of the Fort Hood 43 was not as harsh as it might have been; most received only light jail sentences.

The San Francisco Bay Area has been in the vanguard of most of the radical movements in the United States during the past decade, and the GI movement was no exception.

With the support of two local GI newspapers, The Ally and Task Force, area servicepeople were among the first to speak out in 1968.

On April 27 a group of forty active-duty people marched at the head of an anti-war demonstration in San Francisco, the first time GIs led a civilian peace rally.

Two months later, also in San Francisco, nine AWOL enlisted men (five soldiers, two sailors, one airman, and one Marine) publicly took sanctuary at Howard Presbyterian Church in moral opposition to the war. After a forty-eight-hour "service of celebration and communion," they were arrested by MPs on July 17.

In the fall, the growing network of GI activists in the area laid plans for the largest servicemen's peace action to date — an active-duty contingent for the scheduled October is anti-war rally in downtown San Francisco.

Among the efforts to mobilize area soldiers and distribute literature about the march was Navy nurse Susan Schnall's daring feat of dropping leaflets from an airplane onto five area military bases (for which she was later court-martialed).

As the demonstration date approached, military authorities became nervous that a large number of GIs might become involved, and, in a manner that became standard whenever protests were planned, sought to prevent servicemen from attending.

A communication from the Military Airlift Command in Washington, later anonymously released to *The Ally*, depicted the military's attitude toward even lawful dissent: it urged that 'this demonstration be quashed if possible because of possible severe impact on military discipline throughout the services.'

On the Saturday of the actual march, soldiers at the nearby Presidio were detained for mandatory company formations, while special maneuvers and other diversions were held at several West Coast bases.

Despite such obstruction, two hundred active-duty GIs and some one hundred reservists marched at the head of the demonstration, in what was the largest gathering yet of the expanding GI movement.

Two days later, in an incident partly inspired by the show of antiwar strength on October 12, twenty-seven inmates of the Presidio stockade held a sit-down strike to protest the shooting death a few days earlier of fellow prisoner Richard Bunch and to call attention to unbearable living conditions—what became known later as the Presidio mutiny. (For a sensitive and penetrating account of the Presidio incident see Fred Gardner's *Unlawful Concert*.)

As the GI movement emerged, civilian radical organizations played an important role in helping to sustain rank-and-file dissent. One of the first agencies to recognize the changes taking place within the Army was the Student Mobilization Committee (SMC) and its closely allied counterpart, the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA).

One of the first examples of this co-operation was the GI-Civilian Alliance for Peace (GI-CAP) and the newspaper Counterpoint at Fort Lewis.

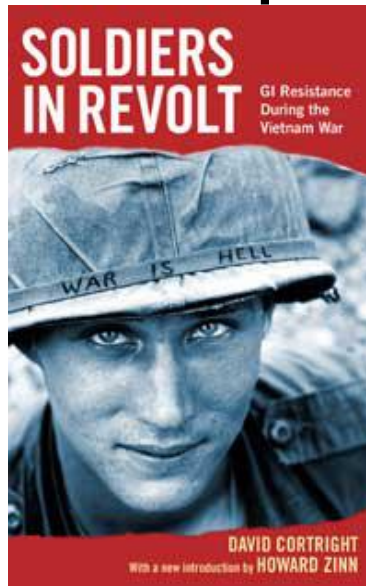
Aided by SMC activists, GI-CAP developed into one of the most successful early GI-movement groups, with as many as fifty servicemen at regular weekly meetings.

On February 16, 1969, the Alliance sponsored a peace rally in downtown Seattle, with two hundred active-duty people leading a crowd of several thousand.

A few months later, the servicemen formed their own organization apart from the civilians and continued their work as an all GI group.

MORE:

**FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY:
A Vietnam Soldier Wrote The Book All
About How An Armed Forces Rebellion
Stopped An Imperial War**



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York

**[CIVILIANS: \$16 INCLUDING POSTAGE:
BUY ONE FOR A FRIEND/RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE.
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: THE MILITARY
PROJECT]**

**Requests from active duty or
orders from civilians to:
Military Resistance
Box 126
2472 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10025**

RECEIVED FROM READERS

Correction:

From: Jared A
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: November 14, 2016
Subject: GI Special 3B1: Criminals at work.doc

To whom it may concern,

I don't know if you're the author of this document, but there is some misinformation within it. The part where you mention the following

“Three weeks after President Bush's May 1, 2003, “Mission Accomplished” speech on an aircraft carrier, a bomb exploded on a road near Baghdad, hitting an unarmored humvee as it escorted a convoy. The blast wounded three troops and killed Pfc. Jeremiah Smith, 25, of Odessa, Mo., a father of two girls.” - Page 5

I want to correct you.

As the driver of that humvee, I would know best the details. It was a M-1114 Up-Armored Humvee and there was only three people total in it. PFC Smith, the NCO, and myself. Outside of that, the information is correct. I included the document, with the correction edit added.

Like I said earlier, I don't know if you're the author of it or not, but I want the information to be correct.

Thank you,
Jared A

REPLY: T

The report you cite was written by

Apr. 14, 2005 BY JOSEPH TANFANI, TOM INFIELD, CARRIE BUDOFF AND EDWARD COLIMORE, PHILADELPHIA - (KRT)

The source information appears at the top of each news report in the Newsletter.

Your correction will be carried in the next Newsletter.

Thank you for sending.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Disappearance Of Another Mexican Priest Sparks Violent Protests:

“Demonstrators Torched The City Hall And At Least One Police Vehicle Saturday”

“Sanchez Ruiz Has Been Spoken Out Against Injustice And Run-Away Violence In Veracruz And Recently Helped Lead Protests Against Electricity Rate Hikes”

November 13, 2016 TeleSUR English

The disappearance of a Mexican Catholic priest in a suspected case of kidnapping has sparked outrage and a wave of heated protests in the tourist town of Catemaco in the violence-plagued state of Veracruz, where demonstrators torched the city hall and at least one police vehicle Saturday.

Catemaco priest Jose Luis Sanchez Ruiz reportedly went missing in the early hours of Friday morning.

According to local media, some 300 residents took to the streets early on Saturday, blocking a highway to protest yet another disappearance in Veracruz, among the top three Mexican states with the most cases of missing people.

Around midday, demonstrators stormed the city hall in Catemaco, demand authorities find the religious leader alive. They then set a police car on fire outside the municipal building, later returning in the evening to pour fuel on and set fire to the building as well.

The protests also sparked looting of local businesses and at least one journalist suffered threats for taking photos of the events, according to local media. Saturday's

demonstrations were the second day of protests after demonstrators also blocked highways on Friday.

Father Aaron Reyes, spokesman for the diocese of San Andres Tuxtla, told AFP that the protests and vandalism were an expression of frustration as residents were “seeing that there were no results in the investigation.”

State officials have indicated that they are searching for the missing priest and have conducted interviews with key witnesses.

According to local media, Sanchez Ruiz has been spoken out against injustice and run-away violence in Veracruz and recently helped lead protests against electricity rate hikes before he went missing late last week. Catholic authorities of the diocese signaled that the priest had suffered threats in the past, local media reported.

**The disappearance of the priest — suspected to be a case of kidnapping since the doors of his church were found to have been opened “in a violent manner,” according to the diocese — comes on the heels of a long wave of violence against Catholic leaders. In September, two priests from another Veracruz town were found dead on the side of a road, and a third priest was also found gunned down after disappearing in the state of Michoacan. **

The Catholic Media Center, which tracks violence against clergy, has found that Mexico is the most dangerous country in which to be a priest.

At least 15 priests have been murdered in the country since President Enrique Peña Nieto took office in December 2012. In the same period, forced disappearances, femicide, violence against political activists and journalists, and state complicity with organized crime have been rampant problems.

The Left Celebrated Some Victories With State Ballot Measures

November 9, 2016 by Liz Essley Whyte, Center for Public Integrity [Excerpts] This story was co-published with TIME.

From marijuana to minimum wage to gun control laws, they won many key initiatives among the 162 statewide measures — part of a concerted plan put in motion more than a year ago to circumvent Republican-led legislatures and take policy questions directly to voters.

Marijuana

California, Massachusetts and Nevada voted to legalize, tax and regulate recreational marijuana.

(Update, Nov. 10, 2016, 3:36 p.m.: Maine voters approved legalizing marijuana.)

In total, pro-pot groups spent roughly \$14.7 million on TV ads for those five measures; anti-marijuana groups spent \$9.2 million.

Medical marijuana advocates also had a successful night. The three states that voted on medical pot — Arkansas, Florida and North Dakota — approved the drug. In the Sunshine State, marijuana garnered 71 percent of the vote, even though anti-drug forces spent roughly \$1.5 million on TV airtime, more than twice as much as marijuana advocates.

Minimum Wage

Measures aimed at benefiting low-wage workers also came out as winners. Voters approved raising the minimum wage in Arizona, Colorado, Maine and Washington while rejecting a proposal to decrease the minimum wage for teenagers in South Dakota. Supporters won handily in all those contests, having spent about \$5.6 million in airtime to promote the measures, compared to opponents' combined \$670,000.

Guns

California and Nevada approved measures to require new background checks on gun purchases.

Health care

Also in Colorado, voters approved physician-assisted suicide. The measure was backed up by roughly \$2.1 million in TV advertising. Much of the funding for the “yes” campaign came from the nonprofit group Compassion and Choices Action Network, a group that is working nationwide to expand options for medically assisted death.

Education

Charter school expansion lost in Massachusetts despite roughly \$19.4 million in TV ads from supporters compared with \$11.8 million spent by union-backed opponents.

Campaign finance

In South Dakota, a measure to overhaul the state's ethics and campaign finance rules passed by a narrow margin, despite opposition from a coalition led by the state branch of Americans for Prosperity, a group backed by billionaire industrialists Charles and David Koch.

The measure also creates a system of a publicly financed vouchers for voters to give to candidates of their choice — the first of its kind to be enacted at the state level.

Supporters spent roughly \$360,000 on last-minute TV ads, while opponents spent about \$40,000 on TV airtime.

MORE:

“A Monumental Victory When Voters Passed Rent Control And Just Cause For Evictions!”

November 9, 2016 by Christina Livingston, The Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE Action) Excerpts

California voters chose schools over prisons!

By voting to extend the income tax on California's wealthiest to keep funding public education across the state, voters made their voice heard: it's time to invest in our future by funding quality education.

We also voted to shift from over-incarceration to rehabilitation, by preventing the high incidence of youth being tried as adults and establishing a credit system for non-violent offenders.

ACCE Action alone contacted nearly 82,000 voters to pass Props 55, 56 and 57.

In Richmond:

ACCE members and our allies from SEIU Local 1021, Richmond Progressive Alliance, Tenants Together, APEN and Communities for a Better Environment celebrated a monumental victory when voters passed Rent Control and Just Cause for Evictions!

Early this year, ACCE members and staff spent countless hours organizing tenants and gathering over 1,000 petition signatures to put Measure L on the ballot. Over the last few months ACCE knocked on more than 11,000 doors and identified 1,800 supporters of Rent Control.

Thanks to our efforts, 9,900 units will be protected, which means 25-30,000 people will get real tenant protections.

Richmond also elected Melvin Willis and Ben Choi to Richmond City Council! As a Community Organizer with ACCE, Melvin has defended homeowners from the greed of banks and speculators and helped tenants whose rents are skyrocketing. Neither Melvin nor Ben accepted any campaign money from corporations or developers. We are confident that Melvin and Ben will continue their long standing support of rent control enforcement, health care for all, and local jobs and hiring.

Oakland:

Last night Oakland won two critical victories, passing A1 (affordable housing bond) that will generate 3-5000 new affordable housing units and passing Measure L (Renter Protection Ordinance to extended renter protections for 12,000 more residents.

With the average rent for an apartment in Oakland over \$3000 now - these victories are a first crucial step to slow displacement, make it harder for landlords to illegally increase your rent, protect more tenants from unjust evictions and strengthen the rent board to be more accountable and transparent.

Oakland ACCE was proud to be a part of the Coalition to Protect Oakland Renters.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

9 Palestinian Households Lose Source Of Income As Zionists Force Owners To Destroy Their Own Shops:

“Monday’s Demolitions Came A Day After 12 Palestinians Were Left Homeless When They Were Forced To Demolish Their Apartments In The Occupied East Jerusalem Neighborhood Of Jabal Al-Mukabbir”



Nov. 14, 2016 Ma'an

JERUSALEM -- Two Palestinian residents of the Beit Hanina neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem were forced to demolish their own stores on Monday upon orders by Israel's Jerusalem municipality.

Nidal Ghaith and Muhammad al-Najjar told Ma'an that they emptied their stores before they disassembled the roofs and demolished the walls.

Al-Najjar said his 50-square-meter store, which was used as a fruit and vegetable market, was built nine years ago, and was the main source of income for four households.

Meanwhile, Ghaith said his store was built three years ago and served as a shop for construction and sanitation material. He added that five households relied on the shop's income.

Both al-Najjar and Ghaith's shops were given demolition orders by the municipality for being built without proper permits.

A spokesperson for the Jerusalem municipality had previously told Ma'an that "self demolitions occur when house owners heed legal notices and court rulings and remove building code violations independently. Specific instances of residents heeding these notices are not verified in real time, therefore we cannot comment on them."

Monday's demolitions came a day after 12 Palestinians were left homeless when they were forced to demolish their apartments in the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Jabal al-Mukabbir, also in accordance with a demolition order that claimed the apartments lacked proper permits.

Demolitions in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem have seen an unprecedented surge this year, with the number of structures demolished in the first half of 2016 already well exceeding the total number of demolitions carried out in all of 2015.

More than 1,383 Palestinians have been displaced since the beginning of 2016 as a result of demolitions in the occupied territory, compared to 688 Palestinians displaced over the entirety of 2015, according to UN documentation.

According to the UN, the overall rate of Israeli demolitions since 2015 has exceeded every year since the UN began monitoring the practice in 2009.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat warned on Monday that any dismantlement of the illegal Israeli outpost Amona in the occupied West Bank would be followed by the mass demolition of Palestinian homes lacking Israeli-issued building permits in East Jerusalem.

According to AFP, the mayor was quoted as saying that the demolition of Amona -- in line with an Israeli Supreme Court ruling -- "could have implications for similar cases in Jerusalem, where Arabs have illegally built on private or municipal land."

A large number of Israeli demolitions are carried out due to Palestinian homeowners not obtaining Israeli-issued building permits, though Palestinians are rarely granted permits by Israeli authorities to build, forcing many to build illegally.

In occupied East Jerusalem, though the Israel's Jerusalem municipality has said that it receives a disproportionately low number of permit applications from Palestinian

communities compared to the Jewish population, and that Palestinian applications “see high approval ratings,” procedures to apply for Israeli-issued building permits are lengthy, sometimes lasting for several years, while the application costs can reach up to 300,000 shekels (\$79,180).

As four out of five of Palestinians in East Jerusalem live under the poverty line, applying for these permits is nearly impossible.

As a result, only 7 percent of Jerusalem building permits go to Palestinian neighborhoods.

Heroic Israeli Navy Attacks Unarmed Palestinian Fishermen, As Usual

November 15, 2016 IMEMC News

Israeli navy ships opened fire, earlier Tuesday, targeting a number of Palestinian fishing boats, close to the shore in Gaza Sea, and chased several boats back to the shore.

The navy fired dozens of live rounds towards the fishing boats, while fishing less than four nautical miles in Gaza territorial waters, and chased several boats back to the shore while using water cannons to flood them.

The attack caused excessive property damage to several boats, but did not lead to injuries, or arrests.

The assault is the latest violation and escalation targeting the Palestinians in their lands, close to the border fence, and the fishers in Gaza territorial waters, in different parts of the besieged coastal region.

Even More Heroic Israeli Soldiers Demolish A Store, A Stable For Horses And A Hot House, In Silwan Town

November 15, 2016 IMEMC News

Israeli soldiers demolished, on Tuesday at dawn, a store in Jabal al-Mokabber, a stable for horses and a hot house, in Silwan town, in occupied East Jerusalem.

The soldiers invaded the al-Farouq area in Jabal al-Mokabber, southeast of Jerusalem, and demolished a store for what the army said “being built without a permit.”

In addition, the army invaded the ath-Thoury neighborhood, in Silwan town, south of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, and demolished an agricultural hothouse, and a stable for horses, owned by Ala' Issa Shweiki, who is also a former political prisoner.



The attacks also led to damage to nearby property, and resulted in cutting and uprooting several trees.

Shweiki told the Wafa News Agency that he never received a demolition order, and that his demolished stable was 200 square meters, built with bricks in addition to being roofed with tin plates, while the hothouse was 15 square meters.

He added that the Jerusalem city council imposed, five years ago, a 40,000 Shekels fine, and that he has been paying it regularly.

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