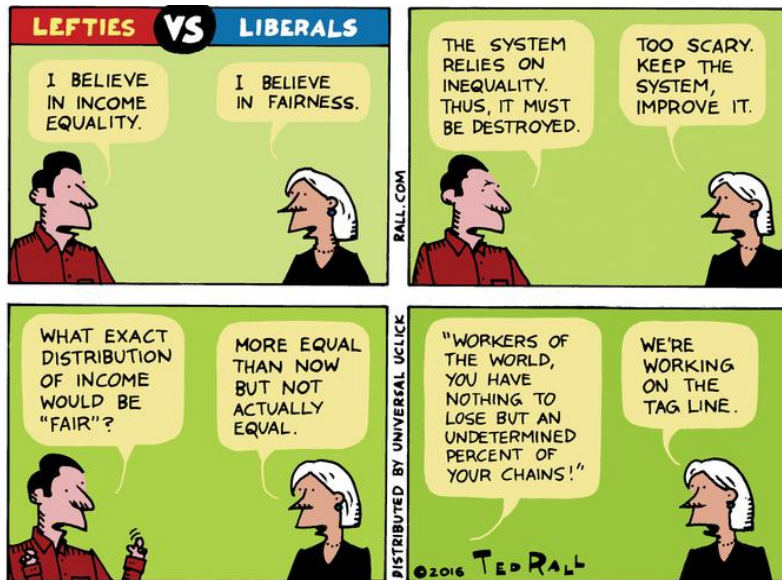


Military Resistance 14L3



**Wall Street Wins Again As
Trump Picks Bankers,
Billionaires:
Mnuchin Would Be Third Goldman
Treasury Secretary Since 1990s
“I Can Take Glee In That. I Think
Donald Trump Conned Them,’ Says
Hedge Fund Manager”
“They’re Not Too Worried About Fury
From Trump’s Voters”**

Hedge fund manager Whitney Tilson was feeling happy Wednesday morning.

After Donald Trump ridiculed Wall Street on the campaign trail, the President-elect tapped former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. executive Steven Mnuchin to be his Treasury secretary and billionaire investor Wilbur Ross to lead the Commerce Department.

Trump even met with Goldman Sachs President Gary Cohn inside Trump Tower.

It would suit Tilson just fine if voters who backed Trump because he promised to rein in Wall Street are furious now that he's surrounding himself with bankers and billionaires.

"I can take glee in that -- I think Donald Trump conned them," said Tilson, who runs Kase Capital Management. "I worried that he was going to do crazy things that would blow the system up. So the fact that he's appointing people from within the system is a good thing."

If Mnuchin becomes Treasury secretary, he'll be the third Goldman Sachs alum in three decades to get the job.

As Trump switches from using Wall Street as a punching bag to a farm team, bank stocks are roaring and executives and investors are sighing with relief.

They're not too worried about fury from Trump's voters.

"Some say that those who elected him may be disappointed in some way," said Scott Bok, who heads boutique investment bank Greenhill & Co. "But I think all those people want is a stronger economy. If tax cuts and infrastructure spending get them that, I think they'll be happy."

Mnuchin, 53, the son of a Goldman Sachs partner, thrived at the institutions Trump mocked during the campaign. He was tapped into the Skull and Bones secret society at Yale, joined the bank and became a top executive, ran a hedge fund and invested in Hollywood blockbusters. When he saw TV news shots of customers lined up outside a branch of California bank IndyMac trying to pull their money in 2008, he spotted an opportunity.

"I've seen this game before," he recalled saying in an interview earlier this year. "This bank is going to end up failing, and we need to figure out how to buy it."

Mnuchin gathered billionaires including George Soros and John Paulson and assembled a \$1.6 billion bid to buy IndyMac. They rebranded it OneWest and sold the bank in August 2015 for \$3.4 billion. It carried out more than 36,000 foreclosures during Mnuchin's reign, according to the nonprofit California Reinvestment Coalition, which accused OneWest of shoddy foreclosure practices and avoiding business in largely black or Latino neighborhoods, claims the bank has denied.

Former Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, a Republican who leads the Financial Services Roundtable, a bank lobbying group, thinks any rage over Mnuchin's pedigree will fade if he does his job well. "If those results are really good for everyday Americans, it will be 'mission accomplished,'" Pawlenty said.

“The public’s focus will soon shift.”

On Wednesday morning, as a former Goldman Sachs executive was getting into his car in the suburbs to drive into New York, he said he was relieved by the Mnuchin news. The executive, who asked for anonymity to talk politics, brushed aside a question about populist fury over Trump’s Wall Street picks by saying a blue-collar high school graduate wouldn’t belong at the head of the Treasury Department.

Shares of all the big Wall Street firms climbed Wednesday, with Goldman Sachs rising 3.6 percent, the best performance in the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

Another former Goldman Sachs banker, SkyBridge Capital founder Anthony Scaramucci, is said by analysts to be under consideration for a job as a top Treasury deputy. He’s well known for once asking President Barack Obama when he’d stop bashing Wall Street. Stephen Bannon, Trump’s chief strategist, worked at Goldman Sachs, too.

Tilson, who was relieved Trump picked an industry veteran instead of a wildcard, still has concerns, especially because Trump promised to dismantle the Dodd-Frank Act, enacted after the financial crisis almost toppled the global economy.

“I’m a fan of Dodd-Frank, I think banking should be boring,” said Tilson, who voted for Hillary Clinton. “I worry about Wall Street returning to being a casino.”

Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren is worried, too. “Mnuchin is the Forrest Gump of the financial crisis -- he managed to participate in all the worst practices on Wall Street,” the Democrat said in a statement.

“His selection as Treasury secretary should send shivers down the spine of every American who got hit hard by the financial crisis.”

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Tondalo Hall Sent To Prison For 30 Years For Failing To Protect Her Children From Child Abuse:

**The Abuser Received 2 Years In
Prison And 8 Years Of Probation
With Credit For Time Served
“The Prosecutor Let The Bad Guy Go
And Sent A Victim To Prison”
“The Prosecutor Didn’t Do Her Job So
She Blamed A Women Who Had Been
Abused And Choked By The Man Sitting
Across From Her”**



November 25, 2016 ACLU of Oklahoma

About ten years ago, Tondalo Hall was sent to prison. Hall, who was 20 at the time, received a 30-year sentence for failing to protect her children from child abuse.

Her boyfriend, Robert Braxton, was charged with four counts of child abuse. Law enforcement officials said Braxton broke the ribs and femur of the couple's three-month-old daughter.

Braxton was violent to both Hall and her children.

Hall testified that Braxton choked her, punched her and grabbed her around the neck on several occasions.

And though enforcement officials agreed Hall didn't abuse her children, they said Hall had failed to protect the children because she allowed Braxton to watch them and that she didn't report the abuse in a timely manner.

During the trial, Braxton changed his plea and negotiated a deal that reduced his sentence to just ten years – two years in prison and eight years of probation, with credit for time served. Braxton was freed the day he pled.

Things didn't go so well for Hall.

Before Braxton was released from custody, Hall had entered a blind plea. She was sentenced to a total of 30 years in prison by Oklahoma County District Judge Ray Elliott.

Prior to her arrest, Hall had no criminal record.

Today, Braxton is free.

Today, Tondalo Hall remains in prison.

For several years, Hall has sought a modification of her sentence. She asked Elliott, the Oklahoma County District judge who sentenced her, for post-conviction relief. She appealed her case to the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. She also asked the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board for clemency.

Each time she's been refused.

Writing for the four-person majority, Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Arlene Johnson said Hall's sentence didn't shock the conscience of the court "based on the facts and circumstances of the case."

"A sentence within the statutory range will be affirmed on appeals unless, considering all the facts and circumstances, it shocks the conscience of the court," Johnson wrote. "Hall pled guilty knowing that she would be sentenced by the court within the range provided by law and would have to serve 85 percent of any sentence imposed."

The fact that Braxton received a lesser sentence, Johnson wrote, does not make Hall's sentence excessive.

Not everyone agreed.

In a blistering dissent, Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Charles Chapel said he "found some merit" in all three of Hall's claims of error.

"I would modify the petitioner's sentence as to run the sentences on all four counts concurrently," Chapel wrote.

Hall's case, Chapel said, was another reason why the state ought to revise how it reviews excessive sentence claims.

"Here we have a poor, pathetic young women with three children who was involved in an abusive relationship," Chapel wrote.

"She had no prior record of any kind. Her abusive partner, who is apparently the father of her two youngest children, abused and seriously injured his own

children. For committing these crimes he was sentenced to ten years, with eight of the ten years suspended.

“On the other hand this young woman with no criminal record who was charged with permitting abuse was sentenced to four 15-year sentences with two of the sentenced to run concurrently with the other two.”

Still, Hall remains hopeful that she will be freed.

Her case has generated national attention. The website BuzzFeed featured Hall’s case in a story about failure to protect laws. In addition, the activist group, UltraViolet, has launched an effort to have Hall’s sentence reduced.

“Tondalo Hall shouldn’t be in prison while the man who abused her and her children is free,” the group said in a statement published by BuzzFeed.

Additionally, officials with the American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma said the organization is actively reviewing Hall’s case. Hall’s sentence, ACLU Oklahoma Legal Director Brady Henderson said, was the perfect example of justice gone wrong.

“This is a case where the prosecutor let the bad guy go and sent a victim to prison. That’s wrong,” he said. “That’s not justice. The court failed to even consider the fact that Tondalo Hall was the victim of severe domestic abuse even after it was brought to its attention.”

Henderson said the reason Hall’s sentence was so harsh was that prosecutors blamed Hall for their weak case.

“The prosecutor didn’t do her job,” Henderson said. “So she blamed a women who had been abused and choked by the man sitting across from her.”

Hall was prosecuted by Oklahoma County Assistant District Attorney Angela Marsee. Marsee left her Oklahoma County office and currently serves as District Attorney for Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills and Washita Counties.

During Hall’s trial Marsee said Hall was the reason the state’s case “fell apart.” “As this court is well aware, the case against the co-defendant fell apart in part because of her minimizing and denying what happened in the household,” Marsee said. “So she shouldn’t get the benefit of that.”

Still, even Marsee said Braxton should have received a harsher punishment than Hall.

“He definitely should have received a more significant sentence,” she said during Hall’s sentencing hearing. “But because of her minimizing and continuing to protect herself and protect him that had a real impact on what we were able to do with him during the jury trial. So she should not benefit from that.”

Court records show that Hall testified Braxton had “put his hands on her throat and choked her.” In addition Elliott, the judge, acknowledged that Hall was fearful of Braxton. But Hall, Elliott claimed, was hiding something.

“There would be certain questions that would be asked of her where she would look over at the defendant and make direct eye contact prior to her taking a moment or two to respond,” Elliot said. “This tells me something, based on my years of experience. Was she scared of him? Probably.”

Hall, Elliott said, was less than candid. “I think, in my opinion, that she lied on some issues under oath,” Elliot said. “That’s just my opinion, which I have the right to have, in light of I’m her sentencing judge.”

Henderson said if the judge or the prosecutor believed Hall was being untruthful, they should have charged her with contempt of court or perjury.

Records show that neither Elliot nor Marsee took action against Hall.

“If they thought she was lying, why didn’t they prosecute her?” Henderson said.

“They didn’t because they didn’t have a case. Hall’s reluctance to testify against the man that beat her was understandable. You take a young battered woman, with little world experience and you make her testify against the man who was abusing her and she’s obviously going to be frightened. She was fearful about her life and the safety of her children, and the DA’s office did nothing to protect her or properly prepare her to testify.”

ACLU Oklahoma Executive Director Ryan Kiesel said the organization would continue to examine Hall’s case. “It’s a heartbreaking case,” he said. “When a law can cause more harm than good, we should consider every effort to change the law and undue any injustice it has caused in the meantime.”

For her part, Hall said she remains focused on trying to modify her sentence. “I’d like to go home,” she said. “I’d like to see my babies.”

**Another Black Chicago Teen
Shot & Killed By Police:
“The Officer Who Killed 19-Year-
Old Kajuan Raye Said That The
Teen Pointed A Gun At Him Twice”
“No Weapon Found”
“The Claim That Raye Pointed A Weapon
Is Absurd, Given That Police Haven’t**

Found One After A Grid Search Of The Area”



Kajuan Raye, 19, was shot and killed by a Chicago Police sergeant. photo: Twitter

11,26,16 by Katherine Rosenberg-Douglas, Rosemary Regina Sobol and Elvia Malagon, Contact Reporters, Chicago Tribune & 27 November 16 By The Root

Yet another Chicago police officer has shot and killed a 19-year-old black teen he says twice pointed a gun at him, but so far, no weapon has been found.

Nineteen-year-old Kajuan Raye was described as his family as “fun-loving and happy kid who had a bright future.”

Raye, of south suburban Dolton, died of a gunshot wound to the back, according to the Cook County medical examiner’s office. His death was ruled a homicide, the office said.

On Wednesday, police say a sergeant was called to an intersection near a park on the city’s south side in response to a report of a “battery in progress.”

The sergeant approached Raye who he described as fitting the description of the suspect.

Raye ran, and the sergeant gave chase.

“The sergeant then told investigators that the offender turned and pointed a weapon in the direction of the sergeant on two separate occasions during the pursuit,” Superintendent Eddie Johnson said.

Video taken by two surveillance cameras outside a church shows Raye running and the officer chasing him out of the cameras’ view, yet the footage does not show the gunfire where Raye was shot and killed.

Police have not released the sergeant’s name. He will be taken off patrol and placed on administrative duties for at least 30 days, as is routine for officers involved in a shooting while it is reviewed.

"We were not able to locate a weapon (of Raye's) as of yet," Johnson told reporters Thursday. "There's still many unanswered questions and we are working diligently to find those answers."

CNN reports that Raye's family is "heartbroken that their son is dead at the hands of a police officer who does not value the sanctity of life of black males," the statement reads. "As a city we continue to struggle with police who are afraid of and have deep seeded prejudices against black youth."

A lawyer with the firm Raye's family retained told CNN the claim that Raye pointed a weapon is absurd, given that police haven't found one after what Johnson said was a grid search of the area.

Attorney Jay Payne said Raye was waiting with a cousin for a bus when the officer approached him, nothing more. "We will be asking the Cook County state's attorney to prosecute this officer," Payne said.

In April, a report from the Police Accountability Task Force created by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel after the death of Laquan McDonald, another black teen by police, noted that Chicago police "have no regard for the sanctity of life when it comes to people of color" and have alienated blacks and Hispanics with the use of force and a longstanding code of silence.

During the past eight years, 74 percent of people killed or injured by Chicago police officers were African-American, the report said.

Standing outside a family home in the Brainerd neighborhood Thursday morning, Ahkeya White said the family was told that Raye, her cousin, had been standing with a friend at a bus stop near the intersection of 64th Street and Ashland Avenue just before the shooting happened.

The bus stop is less than half a mile away from where police said the sergeant had responded for the battery call.

After spending time at a home of a friend's mother, White said, her cousin was waiting for a bus to return to Dolton when the officer approached.

She said the officer got out of his car and told Raye and his friend to go to the police car. That's when Raye and his friend ran, prompting the sergeant to run after her cousin.

Raye was shot once in the abdomen, White said.

She disputes that her cousin was armed during the incident. "There was no gun," she said.

As news began spreading about the shooting and relatives gathered at the hospital, White said she wondered why the shooting happened.

"Why, because I know he didn't do anything to deserve it," she said. "We want answers, but there's really no explanation for what happened other than this is what's been going

on, and it seems, you know, that this is the norm. But it's unacceptable, it's unacceptable."

She described her cousin as a typical 19-year-old who was figuring out what he wanted to do. The family had been urging him to return to school to get his GED.

"Tears are flowing and we are praying," she said. "We'll miss him greatly."

MILITARY NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR IMPERIAL WAR?



The remains of Army Sgt. Douglas Riney, 26, of Fairview, Illinois, killed in Afghanistan, arrives at Dover Airforce Base. San Antonio Express News, October 20, 2016

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:

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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

Therefore, in order for the proletariat’s political strike, once transformed into demonstration by the entire people, to become the starting point for a victorious revolution, a sympathetic attitude must be widespread throughout the army.
-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January,” 1905

**FYI: Military Resistance Website Visits:
Top Ten Sources Of Visits Ranked 1-10
November 2016**

- 1 USA
- 2 Germany
- 3 Ukraine
- 4 France
- 5 South Korea
- 6 China
- 7 Moldova
- 8 Great Britain
- 9 Romania
- 10 Poland

Readers from an additional 103 have also accessed, including Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Thailand, Palestinian Territories, Vietnam, Venezuela & Mongolia

Source: AWStats

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Thousands Of Fight For 15
Protesters Rise Up In 340 Cities
Across The US:
Workers Protest In New York,
Chicago, Kansas City, Los
Angeles And Other Places Calling
For \$15 Minimum Wages
Nationwide;**

“This Movement Believes That That No One Who Works Full Time Should Rely On Food Stamps Or Public Assistance – Just To Pay The Basic Bills”

“This Movement Is For Everybody,” He Said. “We Are White, Black, Hispanic”



Demonstrators participate in a Fight for \$15 wage protest at San Diego’s international airport in California on Tuesday. Photograph: Mike Blake/Reuters

“The more distant we are from their anger, the more disconnected we will be from working people.” Then referring to union officials, Figueroa added, “It’s time to take off our ties and jackets and join workers in the streets.”

29 November 2016 Steven Greenhouse in New York, The Guardian [Excerpts]

Thousands of Fight for 15 supporters chanted, marched, sat in and got arrested in 340 cities across the US on Tuesday, declaring that they won’t back down no matter who is in the White House.

Tuesday’s large protest – the fast-food movement’s 12th one-day strike – was a far cry from four Novembers ago when the Fight for 15 held its first one-day strike. That day, just 200 workers walked out in one city, New York, calling for fairer wages. On Tuesday, 500 workers at Chicago’s O’Hare airport alone went on strike, led by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

“Today is the fourth anniversary, and we want to send a strong message: we’re not going anywhere regardless of who resides in 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,” said Terrence

Wise, a Burger King worker in Kansas City and a member of the Fight for 15's organizing committee.

Wise was in Manhattan to mark the movement's fourth anniversary and to get arrested along with two dozen others for a sit-in outside a McDonald's near Wall Street in Manhattan.

"With the new administration taking office, we're going to double our pressure, we're going to take bigger and bolder action," Wise said. "We plan to ramp up our efforts to continue to build our movement."

The Fight for 15 has grown into one of the nation's largest progressive movements, alongside movements by undocumented immigrants, Black Lives Matter and environmental activists fighting global warming.

Beginning with fast-food workers, the Fight for 15 now includes other groups, including childcare workers, home-care aides, airport workers and adjunct professors.

Brad Lander, a city council member from Brooklyn who participated in Tuesday's Manhattan sit-in, said, "I'm getting arrested because the Fight for 15 workers are the most inspiring group of people I know fighting for a fairer economy. The difference they've made over the last four years is quite extraordinary." Two other city council members and one state assemblyman were also arrested in New York.

"The courage, vision and solidarity that the Fight for 15 has shown is exactly what we need not only to resist Trump, but to put forward a forthright vision of the country we want," Lander added.

"It's more important in the time of Trump, partly because the goal is to show a more equal, more inclusive economy that offers real opportunity and higher wages for everyone – including workers in Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio and other states."

Spurred by the Fight for 15, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles have approved a \$15 minimum wage, and more than a dozen states have also approved measures to raise their minimum wage.

Lander said he had relatives in Ohio, Missouri and West Virginia. "Plenty of them are young people working retail and service who would love a job that pays \$15 an hour and has a stable schedule," he said.

Trump has taken conflicting positions on the minimum wage, saying variously that it's too high and too low, saying he opposes any minimum wage and then saying he supports a \$10 federal minimum (up from the current \$7.25 an hour). He has also said that any minimum wage increases should be done at the state level.

Richard Eiker, a janitor at a McDonald's in Kansas City, joined several large protests on Tuesday. "This movement is for everybody," he said. "We are white, black, Hispanic. This movement believes that that no one who works full time should rely on food stamps or public assistance – just to pay the basic bills."

Some supporters of the Fight for 15 say that in light of Trump's unexpected victory in numerous midwestern states, the movement would be smart to reach out to and rally many factory workers or former factory workers in the rust belt who make less than \$15 an hour.

Naquasia LeGrand, who as a KFC worker in Brooklyn joined the movement's first-ever strike in 2012, said the Fight for 15 has grown far beyond her expectations.

"It has grown more diverse," she said. "It was at first fast-food workers, but now it's also airport workers, childcare workers, adjunct professors and more." She added, "This is for Asians, Hispanics, blacks and white brothers and sisters. Without the white working class, we cannot win this fight. As much as we need them, they need us, too."

Hector Figueroa, president of Local 32BJ of the SEIU, a giant Manhattan-based union representing building-service workers and pushing to help airport workers, said American workers badly need innovative, nontraditional advocacy efforts like the Fight for 15.

"We have to be all in for workers, we have to be a voice of disruption raising demands for working people," he said.

"The more distant we are from their anger, the more disconnected we will be from working people." Then referring to union officials, Figueroa added, "It's time to take off our ties and jackets and join workers in the streets."

Scott Courtney, an executive vice-president of the SEIU, is the Fight for 15's chief strategist. "The statement today is that the Fight for 15 and these workers aren't backing down," he said. "I'd say '15' has become bigger than a number. It's a symbol of opposition and resistance now – to Trump and his ilk."

The Day Socialists Filled A Soccer Stadium:

"More Than 20,000 People Including Factory Workers, University Students, Teachers, Nurses And Families Convened At The Atlanta Soccer Stadium In Buenos Aires"

“After Denouncing Mainstream Politicians For Blindness To The Realities Of Living On A Worker’s Salary, Del Cano Demanded Politicians Be Paid A Teacher’s Salary”



November 20, 2016 LEFT VOICE [Excerpts]

Saturday, November 19 was a historic day for the Argentine left.

It marks the day of the largest left rally in the past 30 years.

Called by the Left and Workers Front (Frente Izquierda de los Trabajadores-FIT in Spanish), the mobilization brought together more than 20,000 people including factory workers, university students, teachers, nurses and families convened at the Atlanta Soccer Stadium in Buenos Aires [Argentina].

The Left and Workers’ Front (FIT) is an electoral coalition of three Trotskyist political forces: the PTS (Partido de los Trabajadores Socialistas—Party of Socialist Workers), PO (Partido Obrero—Workers’ Party) and IS (Izquierda Socialista—Socialist Left). The three organizations are united under a program for class independence and involved in anti-capitalist struggles to build a socialist workers’ government.

Gloria Grinberg interviewed worker militant Raul Godoy (a PTS member and representative in the Neuquén Province Legislature) and Andres Blanco (union

representative) from Zanon, a well-known worker-controlled ceramics factory, Zanon (renamed “Fabricas Sin Patrones- Factories without Bosses-FaSinPat).

The factory has been functional and completely worker-run since 2001. Godoy calls for rank and file workers to organize in their unions to fight the bosses as well as the union bureaucracy.

The streets filled with people marching on their way to the stadium.

Inside, the stadium packed in as people chanted and cheered, their flags waving in the sun.

The sheer number of people gathered was astounding.

During the rally people watched and listened to speakers from members of the FIT.

Myriam Bregman. Bregman, a human rights lawyer was elected to Congress as a representative of the FIT and lives on the salary of a teacher as a political principle, donating the rest of her income to worker struggles.

Bregman spoke about women’s struggle and the need for an anti-capitalist women’s movement. She said, "We know that patriarchy and sexism follow capitalism like a shadow. But we will not leave the fight for women’s basic rights in the hands of bourgeois politicians who turn our demands into demagoguery."

Other speakers spoke about need to combat government cuts and the union bureaucracy. They spoke about the need to organize a left alternative by organizing the most combative sectors of the working class. This sentiment was echoed by various speakers throughout the rally.



Former Presidential candidate Nicolás del Caño with stadium crowd in background

The final speaker, the former Presidential candidate Nicolás del Caño (PTS) won 3.3 percent of the national vote in Argentina. This is a higher percentage than both Gary Johnson and Jill Stein in the U.S. elections last week. His campaign slogan: “Capitalism can’t go on!”.

Del Caño also mentioned Left Voice, condemned racist police murders in the U.S., and charged Trump and Clinton with being enemies of the working class and oppressed people.

Because of their dynamic election and leadership in class struggle as well as the fight for women’s rights and organizing youth, the FIT also has four seats in the National Congress and dozens of city council representatives.

Del Caño, or “Nico” as he is called in Argentina, called out the political caste who are paid super-salaries.

After denouncing mainstream politicians for blindness to the realities of living on a worker’s salary, Del Cano demanded politicians be paid a teacher’s salary.

With a final condemnation of Trump’s presidency, Nico declared “Our struggle is not only to end capitalism within the nation, but end imperialism throughout the world!”

On cue, fireworks lit up the night sky.

This historic event is an inspiration to the international left and Left Voice is proud to build with members of the Frente la Izquierda de los Trabajadores as we collectively seek to build socialism internationally and in the US.

We invite like minded people to join us in this project.

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DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK

Top 1% Of Adults Own 51% Of The World's Wealth; Top 10% Own 89%; And Bottom 50% Own Only 1%:

“There Are Only 140,000 People In The Whole World Who Have More Than \$50m In Wealth”

“And There Are Now Over 2000 Billionaires – These Are The People That Really Own The World”

November 24, 2016 Michael Roberts Blog [Excerpts]

The top 1% of the adult wealth holders in the world own 51% of all global wealth, while the bottom half of adults own only 1%. Indeed, the top 10% of adults own 89% of all the world's wealth!

This is the new figure reached for 2016 by the annual Credit Suisse global wealth report. Every year, Credit Suisse presents this report, authored by Professor Tony Shorrocks, James Davies and Rodrigo Lluberas, who used to do it for the UN. I report on the results each year and it is usually the one of the most popular posts I write.

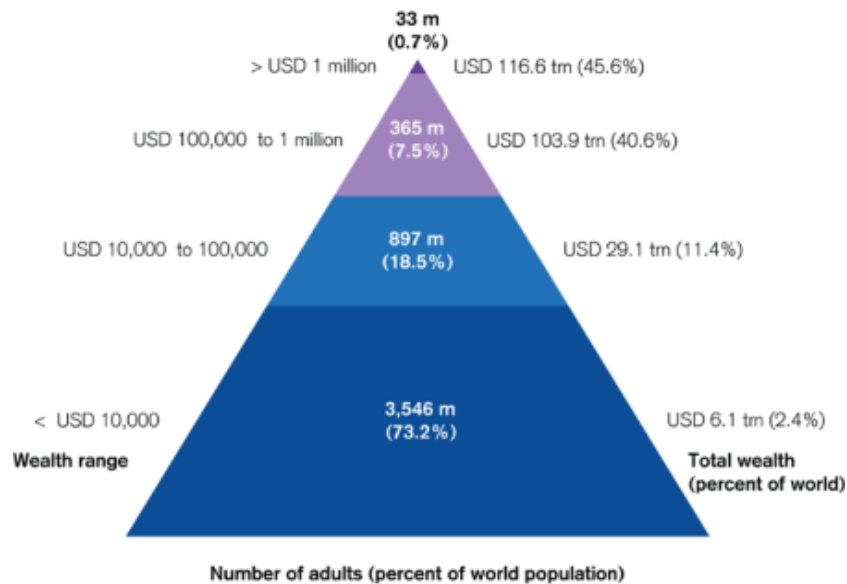
The last time that I discussed the Credit Suisse results, the top 1% had 48% of global wealth.

So, in the last year and a half, global inequality on this measure has risen yet again.

The shares of the top 1% and top 10% in world wealth fell between 2000 and 2007: for instance, the share of the top percentile declined from 50% to 46%. However, the trend reversed after the financial crisis and the top shares have returned to the levels observed at the start of the century.

The Credit Suisse researchers reckon these changes mainly reflect the relative importance of financial assets in the household portfolio, which have risen in value since 2008, pushing up the wealth of many of the richest countries, and of many of the richest people, around the world.

Although the share of financial assets fell this year, the shares of the top wealth groups continued to edge upwards. At the other end of the global pyramid of wealth, the bottom half of adults collectively own less than 1% of total wealth.



The main reason for this huge inequality is that there are so many poor (in wealth) people in the world.

You see, it does not take that much to get into the top 1% of wealth holders. Once debts have been subtracted, a person needs only \$3,650 to be among the wealthiest half of the world's citizens.

However, about \$77,000 is required to be a member of the top 10% of global wealth holders and \$798,000 to belong to the top 1%. So if you own a home in any major city in the rich North on your own and without a mortgage, you are part of the top 1%.

Do you feel rich if you do? This just shows how poor the vast majority of people in the world are: with no property, no cash and certainly no stocks and bonds!

The research shows that 3.5 billion individuals – 73% of all adults in the world – have wealth below \$10,000 in 2016.

A further 900 million adults (19% of the global population) fall in the \$10,000–100,000 range. The poor in wealth are concentrated in India and Africa and the poorer Asian nations, with 73% of those in the bottom wealth holders. But there are also significant numbers of people who are wealth poor by global standards in North America and Europe, with 9% of North Americans, most with negative net worth, in the global bottom quintile and 34% of Europeans in the global bottom half.

These people not only have no wealth, they are in debt.

And who is getting better off?

Well, it is not Indians. India has just 3.1% of 'middle-class' people globally (wealth of \$10-100k) and that share has hardly changed. In contrast, China accounts for a huge 33% of middle wealth people, ten times that of India – and that proportion has doubled since 2000. What this tells you is that China's unprecedented economic expansion has taken hundreds of millions out of poverty, even if inequality of wealth has risen.

Indeed, the number of millionaires, which fell in 2008, showed a fast recovery after the financial crisis and is now more than double its 2000 figure.

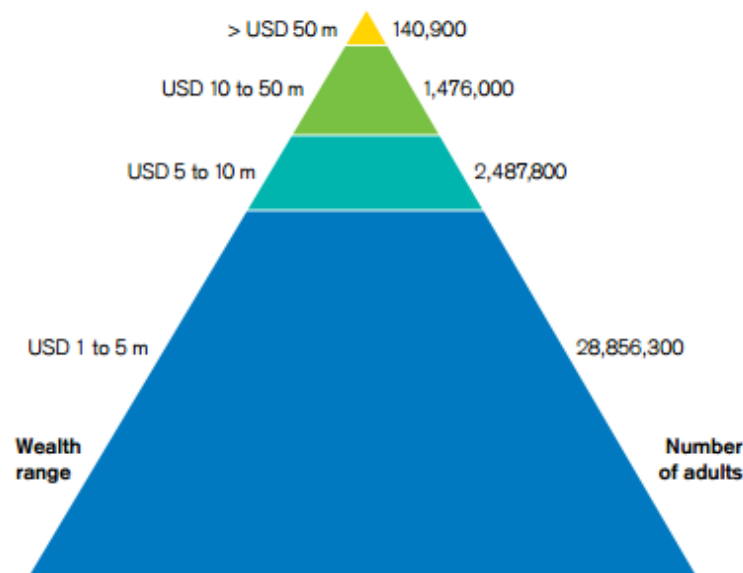
There are now 32.9m millionaires globally i.e. adults with more than \$1m in property or savings after debt.

Indeed, there are only 140,000 people in the whole world who have more than \$50m in wealth.

And there are now over 2000 billionaires – these are the people that really own the world.

Figure 4

The top of the pyramid



Source: James Davies, Rodrigo Lluberias and Anthony Shorrocks, Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databook 2016

Assuming no change in global wealth inequality, another 945 billionaires are expected to appear in the next five years, raising the total number of billionaires to nearly 3,000. More than 300 of the new billionaires will be from North America.

China is projected to add more billionaires than all of Europe combined, pushing the total from China above 420.

Credit Suisse estimates that total global wealth is now \$334trn, or about four times annual world GDP.

After the turn of the century, there was at first a rapid rise in global wealth, with the fastest growth in China, India, and other emerging economies, which accounted for 25% of the rise in wealth, although they owned only 12% of world wealth in the year 2000. Global wealth declined in 2008, but has trended slowly upwards since, at a significantly lower rate than before the financial crisis. In fact, wealth has fallen in dollar terms in all regions other than North America, Asia-Pacific, and China since 2010.

On a per-adult basis, wealth has barely grown at all and median wealth has fallen each year since 2010. The average adult is getting poorer.

In the past 12 months, global wealth has risen by 1.4% and has barely kept pace with population growth.

As a result, in 2016, mean wealth per adult was unchanged for the first time since 2008, at approximately 52,800 dollars. So the world's population as a whole has not got wealthier in the last year and a half, while inequality has risen.

MORE:

This Is What Thanksgiving For The 1% Looked Like: “Priced At \$50,000, Up \$15,000 From Two Years Ago”



November 23, 2016 By Alexandra Rosenmann, AlterNet

This year, America's most expensive Thanksgiving dinner is priced at \$50,000, up \$15,000 from two years ago, when four Americans shelled out for the feast.

"It's a lifetime experience, but it might take you a lifetime to pay back the money," said Marc Sherry, co-owner of the Old Homestead Steakhouse in Manhattan's meatpacking district, where the meal is served. The steakhouse has been serving the decadent meal since 1968.

In addition to holiday staples like turkey and sides, the \$50,000 package also includes "four prime seating tickets to the iconic Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, a holiday shopping spree at Saks Fifth Avenue, Bergdorf Goodman and Henri Bendel, four tickets on the 50-yard line to any New York Giants home game for the remainder of this season or next, a horse-drawn carriage ride through Central Park, a one-night stay in a luxury suite at the Waldorf-Astoria, a guided tour around the city, and a stretch-limousine that will transport guests between activities," Inside Edition reported.

"I promise you, it will be more opulent and decadent than the lobby in Trump Tower," Sherry insisted.

It's a far cry from the \$50 the average American will spend on a whole meal, about \$5 per person.

Old Homestead isn't the only New York restaurant offering a five-figure feast this holiday. The St. Regis announced its \$20,000 dinner package just days before Old Homestead upped its price.



\$20,000 Thanksgiving turkey dinner at the St. Regis New York

So, compared to these two, the \$495 turkey dinner from Neiman Marcus sounds like a sweet deal. The meal ships directly to you, so the 1% can look forward to a \$50 green bean casserole arriving at their doorstep.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“IDF Brigadier-General Buchris
Was On Track As A Future IDF
Chief Of Staff”**

**“This Was Before He Was Indicted
On Three Counts Of Rape And 13
Other Sex Crimes Against A
Soldier And A Junior Officer Under
His Command”**

**“The Buchris Plea Bargain To Avoid
Imprisonment Is No Bargain For
Women Soldiers”**

**“Every Senior IDF Commander Who
Took Advantage Of His Rank, Power And
Influence And Inflicted Serious Harm On
A Young Female Soldier Who Trusted
Him, Will Not Be Liable For The Full
Extent Of His Guilt”**



Rapist IDF Brig. Gen. Ofek Buchris. (photo credit: ELI DASSA)

12/03/2016 By JPOST EDITORIAL, Jerusalem Post [Excerpt]

The Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel reports that one in three Israeli women is sexually assaulted during her lifetime, while one in seven women is raped.

The question that is evidently not being asked enough is: Why are so many Israeli women subjected to sexual harassment, assault and rape?

While an authoritative answer awaits scientific investigation, it is no secret that there is a growing sense that sexual assault is becoming endemic in Israel and is perpetrated most visibly by men in positions of power – whether in politics, the military or the rabbinate.

There is also a growing sense that too many perpetrators are avoiding punishment for their acts via the misplaced leniency of the judicial system, whether civil or religious.

The most prominent example of the moment is the case of suspended IDF brigadier-general Ofek Buchris, who was reportedly on track for consideration as a future IDF chief of staff. This was before he was indicted in July on three counts of rape and 13 other sex crimes, allegedly committed between July 2012 and January 2013, against a soldier and a junior officer under his command.

Though his first reaction to the charges was the denial typically made by all who are similarly accused, after several months of stonewalling he admitted to the indictment, minus the more serious rape charge, as part of a plea bargain to avoid imprisonment.

The former general agreed to being demoted to colonel and suspended from duty by issuing a public statement taking “full responsibility.”

“After various reports, I would like to clarify that my admission to the indictment is full and I take full responsibility for the actions specified there,” Buchris wrote.

The Buchris bargain was met with an immediate outcry by rights activists, particularly women’s groups.

Orit Sulitzeanu, chairwoman of the Association for Rape Crisis Centers in Israel, stated: “It cannot be that such a senior officer would escape without significant punishment; it is inconceivable that he will not pay for what he committed and that he will not spend time behind bars.”

She added: “It is unclear why the rape charge was removed and why it was decided to devise a plea deal that constitutes a slap in the face to the brave women who dared to complain.”

In a country whose former president is serving a considerable prison sentence for rape, the link between crime and punishment is not always broken, though it seems that way.

Last year, interior minister and deputy prime minister Silvan Shalom and Bayit Yehudi MK Yinon Magal resigned within weeks of one another after a series of accusations of sexual assault by former subordinates.

Sexual misconduct cases involving top police officers have become regular occurrences and many chose to retire rather than face prosecution.

Nearly half of the assistant chiefs of the Israel Police – the highest rank below commissioner – have been accused of such abuse.

The poor example set by the Buchris plea agreement is no bargain for women soldiers.

Women's International Zionist Organization chairwoman Gila Oshrat lamented the unavoidable consequence:

“The plea agreement in question will mean that every senior IDF commander who took advantage of his rank, power and influence and inflicted serious harm on a young female soldier who trusted him, will not be liable for the full extent of his guilt,” she said.

Sexual predators abound in our society, but the one place our daughters and sisters should feel secure is in service of the military that exists to protect us. They are not the enemy. The time has come to demand appropriate punishment for every attacker, regardless of his status or authority.

Unarmed Palestinian Inside Free Gaza Shot By Zionists: “Fired Many Live Rounds At The Palestinian Protesters, Wounding A Young Man In The Head”

December 3, 2016 IMEMC News

On Friday, Israeli soldiers, stationed behind the border fence, east of Gaza, fired many live rounds, rubber-coated steel bullets and gas bombs, at Palestinians protesting close to the fence, east of Gaza city, moderately wounding one Palestinian with a live round in his head.

The soldiers, stationed at the Nahal Oz military base across the border fence, fired many live rounds at the Palestinian protesters, wounding a young man in the head, before local medics moved him to the Shifa Hospital, in Gaza.

Medical sources said the young man suffered is currently in a moderate condition, at the Intensive Care Unit.

They added that many Palestinians suffered the effects of teargas inhalation, and received the needed treatment by field medics.

In addition, several Palestinians were injured after the soldiers, stationed on military towers, east of the al-Boreij refugee camp, in central Gaza, fired many live rounds and gas bombs at them.

Man Shot By Occupation Forces For Going To Work While Palestinian

December 2, 2016 IMEMC News

Israeli troops, on Thursday, reportedly shot and injured a Palestinian worker near the village of Numan, to the east of Bethlehem, while he was on his way to work in Jerusalem, according to WAFA medical sources.

Israeli soldiers were said to have opened fire at Mousa Dababseh, aged 28, injuring him in the left foot.

He was then handed over to the Palestinian Red Crescent who transferred him to Beit Jala hospital for treatment, and where he was reported on stable condition.

No further details were given at the time of this report.

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

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and

<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

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



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