

Military Resistance 15A15



The Billionaires (And Mega-Millionaires) Trump Wants In His Cabinet:

“Trump Has Nominated, In The Main, Plutocrats And Those Who Hold Their Interests Closest To Heart”

January 23, 2017 By Nick Tabor and James D. Walsh, New York Magazine. Illustrations by Illustration: Lauren Tamaki

In his bid to build a staff of “the greatest people, the most incredible people,” Trump has nominated, in the main, plutocrats and those who hold their interests closest to heart.

For Secretary of the Treasury: Steven Mnuchin
Net Worth: At least \$166 million and as much as \$500 million (including \$3.2 million in “profits” he collected from Bernie Madoff shortly before Madoff’s Ponzi scheme was exposed).



Business Experience: After 17 years at Goldman Sachs, where his father was a legendary “bulk trader” and Mnuchin fils rose to become an executive vice-president, he left in the early aughts to create a series of hedge funds.

During the financial crisis, Mnuchin became the perfect image of a robber baron who benefited from people losing their homes, collecting \$13 billion in government subsidies to stabilize troubled assets for his bank OneWest — the bank profited to the tune of \$3 billion and racked up another \$2.4 billion in government fees for its foreclosures. And OneWest was notoriously ruthless with its clients; it once locked a Minnesota woman out of her home during a blizzard.

Outlook: Mnuchin says he’ll urge Congress to eliminate parts of Dodd-Frank, i.e., the meager protections passed in 2010 to stop banks from repeating the reckless lending practices that brought on the 2008 market crash (and his windfall).

Bonus: Mnuchin’s grandfather founded a yacht club in the Hamptons, and his father retired from Goldman to become a major art dealer. Mnuchin himself owns a “stake” in a \$14.7 million de Kooning painting, Untitled III. He has also financed many movies, including Avatar and Mad Max: Fury Road.

He failed to disclose \$100 million in assets before his confirmation hearing (too much paperwork).

For Secretary of Commerce: Wilbur Ross Jr.



Net Worth: Around \$2.5 billion, which includes an art collection (featuring 25 paintings by René Magritte) that he values at \$50 million (others say it's closer to \$150 million). He also owns a Palm Beach villa down the road from Mar-a-Lago.

Business Experience: Ross has been described as “the king of bankruptcy,” “a bottom-feeder,” “a vulture,” and one of the “profiteers of the great foreclosure machine.” According to Reuters, he’s also responsible for offshoring 2,700 jobs since 2004. An abridged list of potential conflicts of interest: He’s an investor in a shipping company with a Chinese sovereign-wealth fund and in a state-owned Chinese power generator run by the son of the former prime minister; sits alongside Russian oligarchs on the board of the Bank of Cyprus; and holds a stake in, and sits on the board of, ArcelorMittal, the biggest steel producer in the world (Commerce monitors the steel market).

Outlook: If confirmed, Ross would be in charge of implementing some of Trump’s more ambitious (i.e., preposterous) promises, like adding 25 million new jobs in the next decade and achieving annual 3.5 percent economic growth. But he might not be too stressed about it: “I think you have to listen to campaign pitches more as symbolic, more as metaphors.”

Bonus: He once volunteered to be camouflaged in paint for a piece by Chinese contemporary artist Liu Bolin, then was painted to blend in with a mural of \$100 bills.

With Carl Icahn in 1991, he helped structure a deal that allowed Donald Trump to maintain control of his Atlantic City casino through bankruptcy.

For Secretary of Labor: Andrew Puzder



Net Worth: \$45 million (at least).

Business Experience: Puzder is CEO of a fast-food group that includes Hardee’s and Carl’s Jr. — a company that has repeatedly been sued for worker mistreatment (according to Bloomberg, Department of Labor investigations into the group’s restaurants found wage violations 60 percent of the time). The restaurant group has also been sued for failing to provide breaks; forcing managers to be on call 24 hours a day without overtime pay; discriminating against an applicant with a disability; failing to provide sufficient safety gear; and tolerating sexual harassment in the workplace.

Outlook: His book, *Job Creation: How It Really Works and Why Government Doesn't Understand It*, has been called a “deregulatory manifesto,” so it should come as no surprise that Puzder, appointed to lead the department charged with protecting workers’ rights, is a firm believer that government (and union) oversight of working conditions is a hindrance. He opposes raising the federal minimum wage and expanding overtime pay.

Bonus: Last March, Puzder said he’d like to try automating a few Carl’s Jr. restaurants — “You order on a kiosk, you pay with a credit or debit card, your order pops up, and you never see a person.”

He told Business Insider he’d favor machines because “(t)hey’re always polite, they always upsell, they never take a vacation, they never show up late, there’s never a slip-and-fall, or an age, sex, or race discrimination case.”

His ex-wife once appeared on Oprah in disguise as a victim of domestic violence (she has recently retracted those allegations).

For Secretary of Transportation: Elaine Chao



Net Worth: \$24 million. Chao’s father founded a shipping company with branches in the Marshall Islands and whose ships fly the Liberian flag (one of which was once discovered with 40 kilograms of cocaine while docked in Colombia). In 2012, the family made a \$40 million donation to Harvard Business School.

Business Experience: She spent eight years as the head of George W. Bush’s Labor Department. Under Chao’s leadership, Labor’s Wage and Hour Division essentially stopped fielding wage-theft complaints. Federal employees threw a “good riddance” party for her when she left.

Outlook: When the Obama administration announced the transportation stimulus in 2009, Chao bemoaned “the same old tax-and-spend crowd ... that will turn our country into Europe.” Chao hasn’t said much about Trump’s promised \$1 trillion infrastructure investment, but expect her to steer plenty of it to the private sector, probably via tax credits to builders.

Bonus: Oh, she’s married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and during her confirmation hearing, she sounded like a true swamp drainee when she quipped, “I will be working to lock in the majority leader’s support tonight over dinner.” (The man who

introduced the couple once described Chao as a “tiger wife.”) Chao is also a commentator on Fox News and sat on the board of News Corp. Before entering public life, she worked at Bank of America and Citicorp; after leaving the Bush administration, she joined the board of Wells Fargo.

For Secretary of State: Rex Tillerson



Net Worth: \$325 million, including \$240 million in Exxon stock and a multimillion-dollar Texas horse ranch.

Business Experience: As chief executive of ExxonMobil, Tillerson ran a company that essentially operated as a sovereign state serving the interests of its shareholders (in fact, to an autocratic country like Chad, a deal with Exxon could be more valuable than its relationship with the State Department). Under Tillerson, Exxon did business through a European subsidiary with countries like Iran, Sudan, and Syria, which were all under State Department sanctions for state-sponsored terrorism.

Outlook: As secretary of State, Tillerson will certainly have Trump’s ear when it comes to economic sanctions, which he’s said to oppose almost universally (perhaps in part because lifting Russian sanctions would deliver a windfall to ExxonMobil shareholders).

Bonus: Three years ago, Tillerson joined a suit to stop construction of a water tower that would help a nearby fracking project — the trucks and heavy traffic, the suit alleged, would disturb his ranch. He and his wife withdrew from the suit after the media got wind of the story: the most powerful oil executive in the world fighting a project similar to the ones ExxonMobil has throughout the globe. At his confirmation hearing, he claimed Exxon had not, to his knowledge, lobbied against Russian sanctions, then said the company had opposed the sanctions but only after they’d been imposed. He also did not rule out a national Muslim registry.

For Secretary of Education: Betsy DeVos

Net Worth: \$1.25 billion, with family wealth adding up to \$3.85 billion more. She’s currently a member of three yacht clubs, three golf clubs, and one “premier private business and social club.”

Business Experience: None to speak of, actually. But it was DeVos, with no background in education, who orchestrated Michigan’s “school choice” movement 20 years ago.

DeVos has vehemently fought regulations on charter-school operators that other states have implemented, like a ban on for-profit schools and conflicts of interest, choosing instead to unrepentantly push a free-market ideology that, as she once said, can “advance God’s kingdom.” “For 20 years, the lobby her family bankrolls has propped up the billion-dollar charter-school industry and insulated it from common-sense oversight, even as charter schools repeatedly failed to deliver on their promises to parents and children,” reported the Detroit Free Press.



Outlook: DeVos hasn’t ruled out an attempt to privatize the entire Department of Education.

Bonus: Her brother, Erik Prince, founded Blackwater, the private army made rich and infamous during the Iraq War. During her confirmation hearings ... well, where do we begin? She did not seem to understand the difference between proficiency standards and growth standards for testing; claimed that student debt had ballooned 980 percent in the last eight years, a figure that is only 862 percentage points off; and suggested guns might be useful in schools to protect against grizzly-bear attacks.

ACTION REPORTS

“We’re All Aware” Young Soldiers On Inauguration Day [Outreach To The New York National Guard 1.20.2017]

From: Alan S, Military Initiative
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Outreach
Date: Jan 21, 2017

“You oughta run for office,” said the soldier after I said “politicians weren’t on their side but we were.”

She couldn’t accept any material other than our intro cards but volunteered to take extras in order to pass out to others at base in Ft. Hamilton, Brooklyn.

Later on there was wider distribution amounting to 7 Military Resistance Newsletters, 4 copies of “Sir! No Sir!”, 4 of “Authority & Expectations” (Iraq War Vet’s angry testimony) 15 intro cards and a copy of “Soldiers in Revolt” to a young private who told me “I’ve been brought up to be aware of this stuff.

[See below for information about Sir! No Sir, Authority & Expectations, & Soldiers in Revolt]

“We’re all aware” as he scanned a Military Resistance 14L8 depicting the California National Guard’s canceled enlistment bonuses.

Some of the troops already knew about this topical issue (to them especially) and were interested to know we had kept on top of the story. This issue and those previous leading to it have acted well as icebreakers for further conversation on outreach.

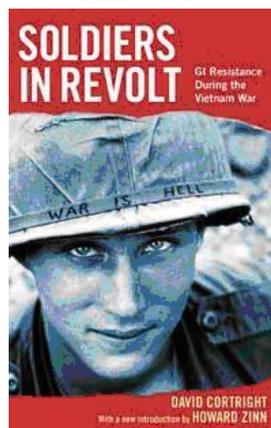
Most hadn’t met me yet as it appears there’s been fresh rotation in the patrols (indicated in the last outreach report) and were still uniformly younger than other years at the commuter terminals.

Not a word concerning the Inauguration was exchanged.

Sir No Sir: Military Resistance Vietnam Days
http://www.sirnosir.com/the_film/storefront.htm

Authority & Expectations: An Iraq Veteran Against The War condemns the war and their government:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyfkLubnyBw>

Soldiers In Revolt: A Vietnam veteran describes the strategy and tactics used by troops to stop an imperial war.



Free to active duty. Civilians: \$16 including postage.
Buy one for a friend/relative in the service.

Requests from active duty or orders from civilians to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway. New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

MORE:

ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to Military Resistance for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so.

If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out. Reporting what went wrong and/or got screwed up is especially important, so that others may learn from you what to expect, and how to avoid similar problems if possible.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.

MORE:

Military Initiative

Organizing Committee Mission Statement:

July 4, 1776

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

1. Members of the armed forces have the right and duty to defend civilians from dictatorships and to aid civilian movements against dictatorships.

This applies whether dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or is imposed when those in command of the resources of society use their wealth for buying politicians to control the government.

The armed forces are not for use by politicians or corporations to attack movements fighting for improvement in the lives of working class citizens, or to attack the rights and liberties of Americans written in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution

2. The armed forces are not for use in wars of Empire.

Military Initiative is for immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Members of the armed forces organizing to defeat wars of empire will receive encouragement and support.

The long term objective is to assist in eliminating wars of empire by eliminating all empires.

Nations attacked by Empires have the right to independence and to resist invasion.

3. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will be encouraged and supported.

This applies to the armed forces of every nation. There is no national government at this time organized by, for, and under the control of its citizens.

4. Military Initiative does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces because members of the armed forces working together is most effective.

That said, Military Initiative will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.

5. Military Initiative practices organizational democracy.

This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels. Anyone elected is subject to recall, by majority vote of the membership.

Any coordinating bodies will report their decisions and votes to the membership, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.

6. It is unnecessary for Military Initiative to be in complete political agreement with other organizations to work together toward a common objective.

Organizations working together on common objectives need to discuss differences about the best way forward.

7. The mission of Military Initiative is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians who are dedicated to these objectives.

In order to be prepared to defend and extend human rights and economic justice, we will meet together to organize wherever we may be, engaging in such activities as may be necessary, reasonable and effective.

Membership Requirements:

8. Civilian member participate in organized action to reach out to and work with active duty armed forces.

9. Military Initiative or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan and Iraq, but do not support candidates opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.

10. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.

11. I understand and am in agreement with this mission.

I oppose bigotry against people because of their race, religion, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation.

I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

----- (Signed)

(Date)

----- (Application taken by)

Military Initiative: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2472 Broadway,
New York, N.Y. 10025

MORE

You Can Take Action That Makes A Difference: Join The Military Initiative: MILITARY INITIATIVE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (please print): _____

Armed Forces? (Branch) _____

Veteran? Years: _____

Union: _____

Occupation: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone (Landline): _____

Phone (Cell): _____

\$ dues paid _____

(See next: Calendar year basis.)

Armed Forces Members	@	Dues waived
Civilians	@	\$25
Students/Unemployed	@	\$10
Civilian/Military Prisoners	@	Dues Waived

Comments:

NOTE: Civilian applicants will be interviewed, in person if possible, or by phone.

**Military Initiative: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2472 Broadway,
New York, N.Y. 10025**

MORE

“People Need Not Be Helpless Before The Power Of Illegitimate Authority”

[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]

In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.

The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.

Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.

Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.

Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.

During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.

To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.

The central lesson of the GI movement is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.

Military Initiative

**Military Initiative: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2472 Broadway,
New York, N.Y. 10025**

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Taliban Launch Nearly 19,000 Attacks In 10 Months: “This Year Much Worse For The Number Of Attacks By The Taliban”

January 24, 2017 The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan Defense Ministry official says the Taliban have launched nearly 19,000 attacks throughout the country in the last 10 months. By comparison the Afghan National Security Forces carried out roughly 700 counter-insurgency operations during the same period.

Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said Tuesday he didn't have a comparative figure from the previous year, "but this year it was much worse for the number of attacks by the Taliban."

While fighting traditionally eases during the winter months, observers say the attacks this year have continued at a steady pace.

Waziri told reporters at a briefing in the capital, Kabul, that 2,021 Taliban militants were arrested in the past 10 months and 365 Taliban commanders were killed. There was no way to independently confirm Waziri's figures.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Al-Shabab Attack Kills 28: “Attackers Fight Their Way Into Popular Hotel In Central Mogadishu After Ramming Car Bomb Into Its Gate”

**“The Hotel Is Popular With
Politicians, Government Officials And
Entrepreneurs”**

**“Members Of Somalia’s Parliament Were
Thought To Have Been In The Hotel At
The Time Of The Attack”**

1.25.17 Al Jazeera & BBC News & Long War Journal

At least 28 people have been killed and dozens wounded in a coordinated gun-and-bomb attack carried out by al-Shabab at a popular hotel in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, according to officials.

The hotel is located less than a mile from Somalia's presidential palace and is popular with dignitaries.

The assault on Wednesday morning began when attackers rammed an explosives-packed car into the gate of Dayah Hotel, which is near Somalia's parliament in central Mogadishu, and then stormed inside exchanging gunfire with security guards.

A second massive car bomb blast went off after ambulances and journalists had arrived at the scene, leaving at least four reporters wounded, according to AFP news agency.

"We have confirmed 28 people died and 43 others were injured in the two blasts at the hotel," Abdikadir Abdirahman, director of the capital's ambulance services, told Reuters news agency.



The front of Dayah hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, January 25, 2017. REUTERS/Feisal Omar

Security Minister Abdirizak Umar told reporters at the scene that 51 people were wounded in the two blasts at the hotel.

Al Jazeera's Catherine Soi, reporting from Nairobi in neighbouring Kenya, said a freelance journalist working for Al Jazeera Arabic was among those wounded.

Shabaab's Shahada News Agency said in a statement on Telegram that "two powerful explosions targeted the Dayah Hotel in central Mogadishu." The statement continued that "violent clashes" then occurred after Shabaab "commandos" breached the hotel's perimeter.

Colonel Abdiqadir Hussein, a police officer, told Reuters that security forces eventually managed to secure the building. "We have rescued the people and concluded the operation at Dayah Hotel."

Survivors described how hotel residents hid under beds and others jumped out of windows to escape from the attackers.

Hassan Nur told the AP news agency: "They (the gunman) kicked down room doors and at some point posed themselves as rescue teams by telling those inside to come out, (only) to kill them."

Witnesses said the powerful explosions caused extensive damage in the area near the hotel, shattering dozens of windows and damaging parked cars.

"All the neighbouring houses have been destroyed," Yusuf Hassan, editor of Somali newspaper Haqiqa Times, told Al Jazeera from the scene.

"I see people crying because they have lost their relatives," he added. "It is really a big tragedy."

Al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack, according to a report by Andalus radio, which is linked to the armed group.

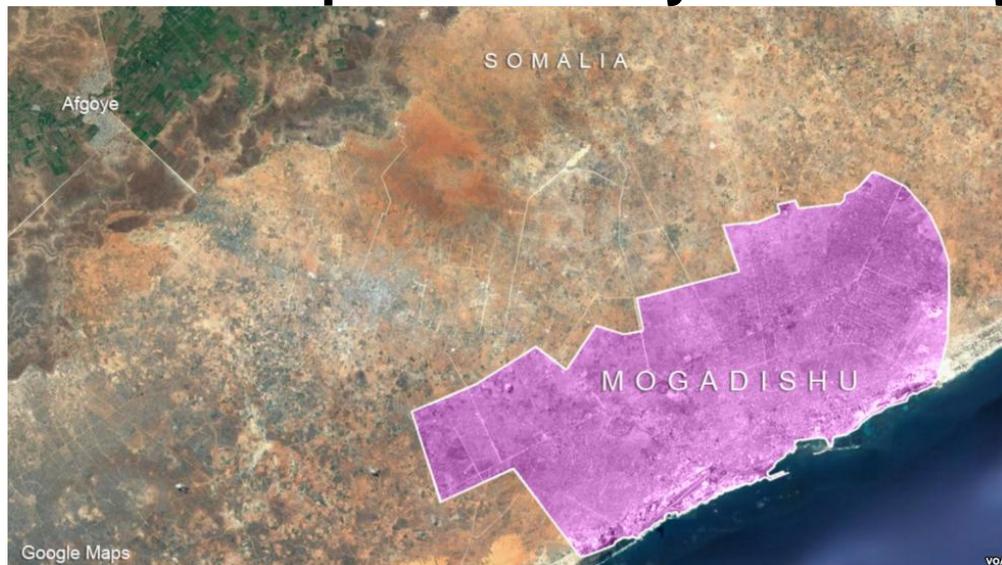
"Well-armed mujahideen attacked the hotel and now they are fighting inside the hotel," the report said.

Dozens of people, including members of Somalia's parliament, were thought to have been in the hotel at the time of the attack, Captain Mohamed Hussein told The Associated Press news agency.

The hotel is popular with politicians, government officials and entrepreneurs.

Al-Shabab has carried out a series of deadly attacks in Somalia to try to topple the country's western-backed government.

Insurgents Kill 7 Somali Policemen Just West Of Mogadishu” “They Want To Show The Government And The People That They Are Nearby”



Afgoye upper left

January 24, 2017 by Harun Maruf, VOA News

At least seven policemen were killed in a huge explosion in a small town Tuesday near the capital, officials and witnesses said.

The explosion occurred at a base used by units from the Somali police force on the southern side of the town of Afgoye, 30 kilometers west of Mogadishu.

The Mayor of Afgoye, Abdinasir Alim Ibrahim told VOA's Somali service that the bomb had been hidden by al-Shabab militants who attacked the base Monday.

"During the attack yesterday we retreated from the area, that is when they buried the bomb in the base," said Ibrahim. "Our forces were today preparing to launch an operation against al-Shabab when the bomb exploded, four died at the scene, three more died in the hospital."

Ibrahim said Afgoye does not have military bases, which serve as defense against al-Shabab because Somali and AU forces vacated their stations nearby.

Tuesday's explosion follows an attack by the militants on Afgoye just hours earlier. The fighting marked the third time this month that militants have attacked the town.

Ibrahim Aden Najah, governor of Lower Shabelle region, told VOA's Somali service that the militants are relentless in their attacks on Afgoye because of its "strategic location" and its "symbolism."

"They want to destabilize the town closest to Mogadishu," he said. "Afgoye is like second Mogadishu to them; they want to show the government and the people that they are nearby."

Najah said that although the militants were pushed back, they remain on the outskirts.

"They are five to six kilometers away, it will take them less than an hour to reach the town, and it's inevitable that they will attack again," he said.

Police Commander Killed By Insurgent Attack In Somalia's Middle Shebelle Region

January 21, 2017 by Harun Maruf, VOA News

The commander of police forces in Somalia's Middle Shebelle region was killed Saturday in a grenade attack at police headquarters in Jowhar town, officials told VOA.

Major Khalif Abdulle Arfaye was fatally wounded in the blast, which left two other people wounded.

Police station chief Mohamed Siyad Ali told VOA's Somali service that the commander had succumbed to his injuries after arriving at the town's hospital.

"Just before 7 p.m. a grenade was hurled at the station. The commander sustained serious injuries. I took him to the hospital, where he died," Ali told VOA Somali.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but Ali said he suspected al-Shabab militants had carried out the attack.

"He was targeted and attacked because of the responsibility he had, it's clear," Ali said.

Ali said the assailant or assailants had fled the scene, and that a manhunt was underway.

Johwar is 90 kilometers north of Mogadishu and is a town surrounded by farmland.

RECEIVED FROM READERS

“Fuck The Rulers And Their Class”

Comments received about “Millions Of Women Gathered In Washington And Cities Around The Country Saturday To Mount A Roaring Rejoinder To The Inauguration Of Donald Trump” [Military Resistance 15A14]

To reprise, this was the introduction to that issue:

Comment: T

Th[e] Washington Post article presents the massive turnout as organized and led by Clinton hacks only interested in identify politics and who have nothing whatever to say about the key issue underlying the election: the class of oligarchs that own and rule America vs. growing working class rage.

If accurate, that is a stupid disaster that will not harm one hair on Trump's head.

That's the same dismal empty bullshit that lost the Democratic Party the election. They have learned nothing and forgotten nothing, leading people who want to resist Trump into their hopeless dead end.

Of course the Democratic Party will not rally us to launch class war against U.S. ruling class oppressors. They are part of the U.S. ruling class oppressors.

With the blood soaked Imperial Wall Street Clinton faction and the reactionary Wall Street Trump faction in a ruling class cage fight splitting the government wide open, our class has got a chance to gain serious ground, provided we stay out of the cage.

This event is an invitation to join the rotting corpse of the Imperial Democratic Party inside the cage.

What a slimy betrayal of those magnificent millions in the streets today showing they are ready and willing to fight. In the coming days, they will chose, and become, more effective leadership. Class warrior women will take front and center.

It's time to give class warfare a chance.

Fuck The Rulers And Their Class

From: Niko Leka [Australia]
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Re: Military Resistance 15A14: Move It On
Date: Jan 23, 2017

Thank you.

Fucking good fucking issue in these fucked up times.

Gives me fucking hope. Fuck 'em brother! fuck the rulers and their class.

“You Got It Right When You Wrote The Women’s March Was Organized Managed And Mostly Addressed From The Front By Democratic Party Hacks Intend To Be A Giant Recruiting Drive For Democrats”

**“These Are The Democrats Here” “Maybe Some Independents
“The Democrats Have To Rally”**

From: Ralph Landini
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Re: Military Resistance 15A14: Move It On
Date: Jan 24, 2017

You got it right when you wrote that the women’s march was organized managed and mostly addressed from the front by Democratic Party hacks intend to be a giant recruiting drive for Democrats:

This is Wall St. Journal January 23:

“Some activists worked the day after the marches to harness the energy they created, holding training sessions Sunday encouraging women to run for office in Washington, D.C. Organizers of the march collected phone numbers from attendees and said they will unveil a new mode of staying engaged with the political process every 10 days for

the first 100 days of Mr. Trump's administration. On Sunday they asked people to write a postcard to their U.S. Senator about an issue of concern to them.

“Sen. Cory Booker (D., N.J.), a rising star in the Democratic Party, announced a round-table with activists in his home state “to discuss key takeaways from this weekend’s historic marches” and to “lay out the path forward in defending women’s rights in a Trump Administration.”

“A big part of our job going forward is to harness this energy to help Americans get involved, make their voices directly heard, and hold Trump accountable,” said Eric Walker, a spokesman for the Democratic National Committee.

“Joining the marches were hundreds of elected officials including members of Congress, mayors, and former members of the Obama administration. Democratic Party stars such as U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kamala Harris of California spoke at march events.

“Samina Raza, a biologist from Louisville, Ky., said she thought the rally would help energize Democrats.

“These are the Democrats here,” she said. “Maybe some independents.

“The Democrats have to rally.”

**“To Leave Capital Out Of The Discussion Is Irrational
And Immoral As Far As I Can Tell”**

**“Until The Anger Is Also Directed At System Change We Will Be
Stuck With The Core Problems And The People In Power Will
Rest Content”**

Via: Sanford [Sandy Kelson, Veteran & Military Initiative Organizing Committee]
Subject: A response to Military Resistance articles that I sent out yesterday
Date: Jan 24, 2017 9:40 AM

Sandy, my brother recorded the events from DC and I listened to a number of the speeches (not all - too many) and I agree with Bruce Dixon.

Most of the anger was directed at what might be called "lifestyle issues," or "problems in the system," but I did not hear anyone talk about the larger system of capital (and how it is destroying the future and present for all too many), class struggles, or the military industrial warmaking complex, etc.

People can talk all day and demonstrate all night about LBGQT matters, racism, bigotry, and immigrant rights, etc., all important of course, but until the anger is also directed at system change we will be stuck with the core problems and the people in power will rest content.

A comprehensive struggle must address all forms of exploitation and oppression, and to leave capital out of the discussion is irrational and immoral as far as I can tell.

in peace and solidarity,

“To Start With, This Movement Is Led By Democratic Party Politicians”

“Mobilizing People In The Streets Is Exactly What The Democratic Party Has Tried To Steer Clear Of For Years”

From: Anthony B via Marxism

Subject: Nixon Part 3

Date: Jan 23, 2017 10:42 AM

Who knows how this roller-coaster ride will go, but Donald Trump has started his term in office in a weaker position than any president in the last 100 years.

His own party does not like him, his poll ratings are low and falling, he has not suddenly become coherent after babbling incoherently through his election campaign, and his inauguration has been met with the largest wave of protests in the USA since the Viet Nam War.

Martin Luther King day this year had already turned into a national protest against Trump, but the women’s marches turned the anti-Trump anger out on a scale far, far bigger than anyone, especially the protest’s organizers, had expected. It was not just the 500,000 plus people in Washington DC, the 750,000 plus people in LA, the 400,000 in New York, and the hundred thousand plus crowds in cities from Boston to San Francisco, it was the crowds of 20,000 in Houston, 15,000 in Nashville and several to tens of thousands in dozens of other cities around the USA.

To start with, this movement is led by Democratic Party politicians with a Democratic party agenda of saving what’s left of the New Deal and Great Society reforms, and saving Obama Care.

For the Democratic Party, the true aim of the agenda is to reverse their losses in the House of Representatives and Senate (a product of their own electoral strategy).

Judging by the homemade signs in the marches, the agenda of the people in the streets already goes further to include raising the minimum wage, defending black lives, advancing immigrant rights, defending and advancing LGBT rights, defending the environment...

Mobilizing people in the streets is exactly what the Democratic Party has tried to steer clear of for years. And when people have taken to the streets, all effort has been exerted to tamp the genie back down into the bottle.

Now, it seems that the genie is out and will be very hard to put back.

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.

NY Times/Marine Vet: A Comment “Professional Politicians Aren’t The Only Hypocrites We Have To Put Up With”

“Our Daily Journals – Print, Digital Or Visual, Command Attention As Well”

From: Alan Stolzer
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Comment
Date: Jan 24, 2017

In a recent issue of the Sunday NY Times Magazine, a piece about a Marine vet appeared detailing his patriotic entry into the Iraq War and the PTSD he acquired before coming out the other side.

Professional politicians aren’t the only hypocrites we have to put up with but our daily journals – print, digital or visual, command attention as well.

Since, in 2003, the Times editorially endorsed the Iraq invasion, EVEN in light of inspection findings by Hans Blix (UN) and others who hadn’t found as much as a toxic peashooter in Iraq not to mention the thousands of people (many, I believe, never having demonstrated against anything) holding up signs “No Blood for Oil” across the planet, the Times mysteriously, in my view, went along with “the program” riding perhaps, the notorious WMD findings of employee, Judith Miller, still probably hiding out in some gated obscurity.

The shamelessness to document the plight of a troubled vet (not to mention thousands of others) after having, partially at least by sanctioning the Iraq invasion, provided for his spiritual and mental disorder is, at best, a new journalistic low in my view.

If the cherished messenger of liberalism, the carrier-instructor of Western morality, the I-can't-do-without bible of "correctness" spits on our common sense and memory in order to disgrace victimized vets, well meant or otherwise, my goodness, what will Donald Trump do?

This exercise of the Times is certainly not "all the news that's fit to print."

In solidarity,

Alan Stolzer
Military Initiative
USN (Retired)

“Me: So What Now? What Are Your Former Republican Colleagues Going To Do?”

“Him (Smirking): They’ll Play Along For A While. So The Moment Trump Does Something Really Dumb – Steps Over The Line – Violates The Law In A Big Stupid Clumsy Way ... And You Know He Will ...”

“Me: They Impeach Him?”

‘Him: You Bet. They Pull The Trigger’

From: Carolyn Birden
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: interesting item
Date: Jan 23, 2017

Thanks for the Bruce Dixon piece: really good, and timely. [Military Resistance 15A14]
He and Michael Moore are on the same page: resist early and often.

More on the futility of making jokes, please: we are “amusing ourselves to death” as Neil Postman phrased it, while the dirty work goes on day and night in Congress.

Here is something that I see is making the rounds: hope you can use it.

From the Comments section at Daily Kos; stunning statement by Robert Reich, since reprinted elsewhere):

Via Canyon Wren Jan 21

This from Robert Reich on his Facebook account:

Robert Reich

I had breakfast recently with a friend who's a former Republican member of Congress. Here's what he said:

Him: Trump is no Republican. He's just a big fat ego.

Me: Then why didn't you speak out against him during the campaign?

Him: You kidding? I was surrounded by Trump voters. I'd have been shot.

Me: So what now? What are your former Republican colleagues going to do?

Him (smirking): They'll play along for a while.

Me: A while?

Him: They'll get as much as they want – tax cuts galore, deregulation, military buildup, slash all those poverty programs, and then get to work on Social Security and Medicare – and blame him. And he's such a fool he'll want to take credit for everything.

Me: And then what?

Him (laughing): They like Pence.

Me: What do you mean?

Him: Pence is their guy. They all think Trump is out of his mind.

Me: So what?

Him: So the moment Trump does something really dumb – steps over the line – violates the law in a big stupid clumsy way ... and you know he will ...

Me: They impeach him?

Him: You bet. They pull the trigger.

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.”

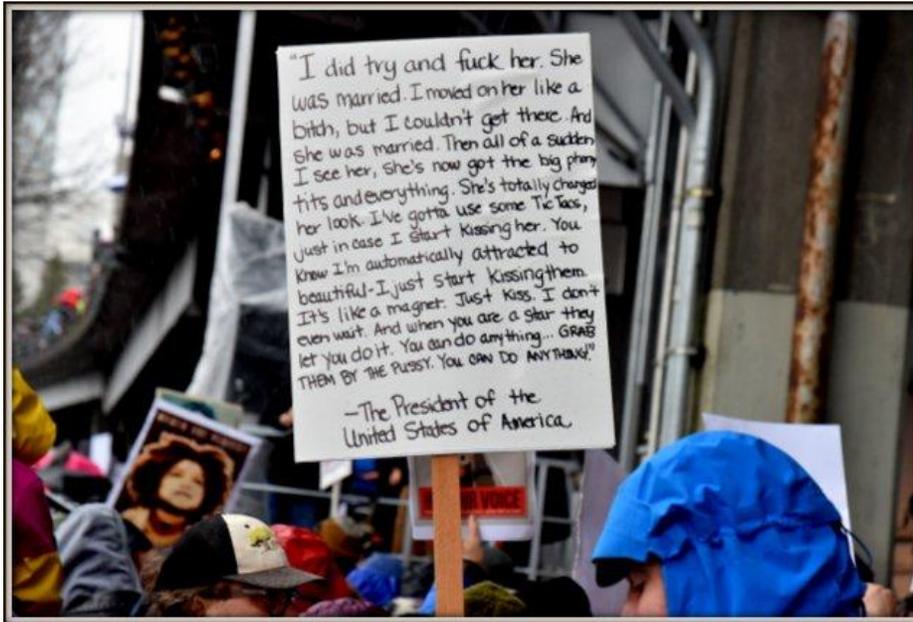
“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

Democracy, true democracy, is never superceded. It is the first thing that a revolution establishes..

-- C.L.R. James; Notes On Dialectics

For All The World To See



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: January 23, 2017
Subject: For All The World To See

History in the making from day one, as "The Emperor" truly has no clothes on.

**Photo by Mike Hastie
Women's March in Portland, Oregon
January 21, 2017
100,000 people showed up in the rain
Subject: Donald Trump
45th President of the United States**

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

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

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

Bigly Great!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELD2AwFN9Nc&app=desktop>

ANNIVERSARIES

January 26, 1784: Prophetic Anniversary: Ben Franklin Says The Imperial Eagle Is A Thieving Piece Of Shit



Carl Bunin Peace History January 21-27

Benjamin Franklin, noting the bald eagle was “a bird of bad moral character” who lived “by sharpening and robbing,” expressed regret it had been selected to be the U.S. national symbol.

In fact, Franklin was critical of the bald eagle for its habit of scavenging for food and stealing from other birds.

“You may have seen him perched on some dead tree, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing-hawk, and when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish, and is bearing it to its nest for the support of his mate and young ones, the bald eagle pursues him and takes it from him,” Franklin said.

January 27, 1847:

Citizens Defeat Slavehunters



SOJOURNER TRUTH.

Carl Bunin Peace History January 21-27

Since 1832, Michigan had had an active antislavery society.

Quakers in Cass County, Laura Haviland in Adrian and former slave Sojourner Truth in Battle Creek were only a few of the many Michiganians who worked on the Underground Railroad—an informal network that assisted escaping slaves.

Southern concern over the Underground Railroad will lead Congress to pass a more stringent Fugitive Slave Law in 1850. In 1854 opposition to the extension of slavery prompted Michiganians to meet in nearby Jackson to organize the Republican Party.

Several hundred citizens of Marshall, Michigan, helped former slaves escape to Canada rather than be returned to their “owner” by bounty hunters. Adam Crosswhite and his family, escaped Kentucky slaves, were tracked to the abolitionist town of Marshall by Francis Troutman and others.

Both black and white residents detained the bounty hunters and threatened them with tar and feathers.

While Troutman was being charged with assault and fined \$100, the Crosswhites fled to Canada. Back in Kentucky, the slavemaster stirred up intense excitement about “abolitionist mobs” in Michigan.

January 27, 1969: A Strike For Liberation

Carl Bunin Peace History January 21-27

In Detroit, African-American auto workers, known as the Eldon Avenue Axle Plant Revolutionary Union Movement, led a wildcat strike against racism and poor working conditions at Chrysler.

Since the 1967 Detroit riots, African American workers had organized groups in several Detroit auto plants criticizing both the auto companies and the UAW leadership. These groups combined Black-Power nationalism and workplace militancy, and temporarily shut down more than a dozen inner-city plants.

The most well-known of these groups was the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement, or DRUM. They criticized both the seniority system and grievance procedures as racist. Veterans of this movement went on to lead many of the same local unions.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Heroic Zionist Occupation Forces Shoot Unarmed Palestinian Fisherman. As Usual

January 23, 2017 IMEMC News & Agencies

A Palestinian fisherman, on Monday morning, sustained serious wounds after he was shot in the head with a rubber-coated metal bullet by Israeli naval forces.

Head of Gaza's Fishermen's Union, Nizar Ayyash, told the Palestine Information Center (PIC) that Israeli forces attacked Palestinian fishermen sailing off of western Beit Lahiya with randomly shot spates of machine gun fire.

Oranes Sherif al-Sultan was shot and injured with an Israeli rubber bullet, in the head, close to his eyes. The fisherman was rushed to the Indonesian hospital and then transferred to the Shifaa medical complex, after his health took a critical downturn.

PNN further reports that, last week, al-Sultan was detained by the occupation forces, at sea, and released following long hours of intensive questioning.

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

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