

Military Resistance 15A2

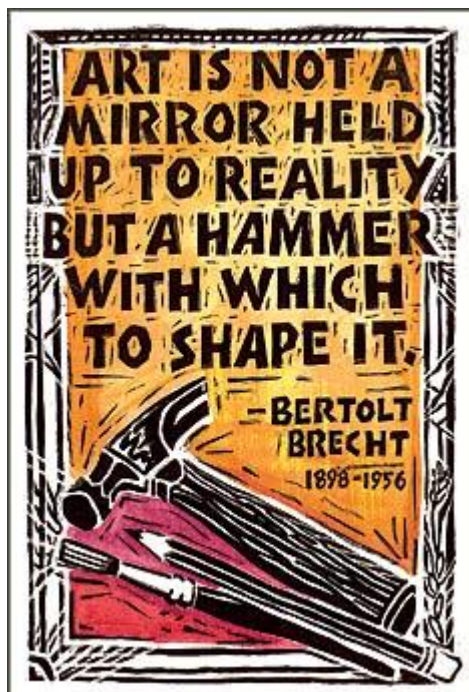
**WHEN IT COMES TO MARCHING
MANY DO NOT
KNOW**

**That their enemy is marching at their
head.**

**The voice which gives them their
orders**

**Is their enemy's voice and
The man who speaks of the enemy
Is the enemy himself.**

[Bertolt Brecht]



From: A German War Primer
By Bertolt Brecht

THOSE WHO TAKE THE MEAT FROM THE TABLE

Teach contentment.

Those for whom the contribution is destined

Demand sacrifice.

Those who eat their fill speak to the hungry

Of wonderful times to come.

Those who lead the country into the abyss

Call ruling too difficult

For ordinary men.

WHEN THE LEADERS SPEAK OF PEACE

The common folk know

That war is coming.

When the leaders curse war

The mobilization order is already written out.

**THOSE AT THE TOP SAY: PEACE
AND WAR**

Are of different substance.

But their peace and their war

Are like wind and storm.

War grows from their peace

Like son from his mother

He bears

Her frightful features.

Their war kills

Whatever their peace

Has left over.

ON THE WALL WAS CHALKED:

They want war.

The man who wrote it

Has already fallen.

THOSE AT THE TOP SAY:

This way to glory.

Those down below say:

This way to the grave.

THE WAR WHICH IS COMING

Is not the first one. There were

Other wars before it.
When the last one came to an end
There were conquerors and conquered.
Among the conquered the common people
Starved. Among the conquerors
The common people starved too.

THOSE AT THE TOP SAY COMRADESHIP
Reigns in the army.
The truth of this is seen
In the cookhouse.
In their hearts should be
The selfsame courage. But
On their plates
Are two kinds of rations.

**WHEN IT COMES TO MARCHING MANY DO NOT
KNOW**
That their enemy is marching at their head.
The voice which gives them their orders
Is their enemy's voice and
The man who speaks of the enemy
Is the enemy himself.

IT IS NIGHT
The married couples
Lie in their beds. The young women
Will bear orphans.

GENERAL, YOUR TANK IS A POWERFUL VEHICLE
It smashes down forests and crushes a hundred men.
But it has one defect:
It needs a driver.

General, your bomber is powerful.
It flies faster than a storm and carries more than an elephant.
But it has one defect:
It needs a mechanic.

General, man is very useful.
He can fly and he can kill.
But he has one defect:
He can think.

MORE:

IF YOU'RE IN THE MILITARY
IS IT LEGAL TO GO TO A
DEMONSTRATION?
TO TALK TO A REPORTER?
TO WRITE TO YOUR
CONGRESSPERSON?
WHAT RIGHTS DO YOU HAVE?

Members of the military have rights under the U.S. Constitution and under the military's own regulations.

The military doesn't like this very much—so they don't tell you much about your rights and often limit your rights.

If you want to attend a peace or other demonstration, or want to speak out, then you want to know about your rights.

Here is some basic information about your rights regarding demonstrations, protests, dissent, and plain old saying what's on your mind.

Once you've read this, it would help to read the regulations (counseling services have them and there are various routes to them on the Internet). You can get more information by talking to a lawyer or counselor experienced in military law--he or she can help interpret the law and regulations and give you legal backup.

The regs give you important ways to protest what's going on in Iraq and elsewhere.

But the regulations also impose important limitations you need to know about; we'll talk about those.

These limitations say people in the military don't have as much constitutional right to express themselves as civilians do.

Courts have upheld a good many of the limitations; some of them haven't been to court yet, when they do they might be held unconstitutional (we think they should be).

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ATTEND PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS OFF BASE

This right is explained in Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 1325.6, "Guidelines for Handling Dissident and Protest Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces."

It tells commanders to preserve service members' "right of expression . . . to the maximum extent possible, consistent with good order and discipline and the national security.'

Of course it puts limits on the right.

The demonstration must be off base and in the U.S. You must be off duty and not in uniform. Also your activities must not "constitute a breach of law and order," and you can't do it "when violence is likely to result."

That last part is pretty vague, so vague that we think you'd have a constitutional defense unless you were really rowdy or knew things were going to get violent.

Prosecutions under these vague regulations have so far been uncommon but it would be a huge hassle or worse if you did have to fight disciplinary action or prosecution and maybe lose and get fined or confined.

They seem to think having vague rules intimidates you. We think they know they're on shaky constitutional ground if they try to use them against peaceful protest activity.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO PETITION A MEMBER OF CONGRESS WHEN YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT, OR TO FILE A COMPLAINT THROUGH YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND UNDER ARTICLE 138 OF THE UCMJ (THE REDRESS OF GRIEVANCE ARTICLE.)

DoD Directive 1325.6 affirms these rights and there's how-to-do-it in DoD Directive 7050.6.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY & WRITE (MOSTLY) WHAT YOU THINK.

But there are some limits here, too.

You can't say things that encourage violence or urge others to violate the regulations, you can't communicate with "the enemy" by writing letters to Iraqi officials or soldiers, and you can't call the President, Dick Cheney, or other high government officials what article 88 of the UCMJ calls "contemptuous words."

Service people have gotten into trouble for using "fascist," "thief," murderer," "tyrant," "fool," and "gangster" in relation to such people (but officers didn't get in trouble for saying things like that about President Clinton).

Article 88 says it only applies to an officer but if they really want to go after an enlisted person for saying these things they'd probably try to use the catchall, art. 134's "to the prejudice of good order and discipline in the armed forces, or conduct of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces."

Art. 117 of the UCMJ outlaws saying ugly things about people, but that's so broad it's probably unconstitutional unless used against really super awful statements. You're in more substantial danger if you say things that could make GI's desert, disobey lawful orders, or refuse to do their jobs.

You can, subject to all of these limitations, write, publish, and distribute things like newspapers & leaflets.

You can write letters to the editor as long as they're not part of an organized letter campaign for a political candidate or party (the Army says this in its Regulation 600-20 Appendix B). It all has to be while you're off duty and without using military paper, ink, computers, phones, or other supplies or equipment.

You can put a bumper sticker on your car.

Yard signs off base are governed by the same rules as other writings (unless it's displayed by a civilian resident and so gets the benefit of civilian free speech rules); in base housing they're iffy, subject to local orders, and probably with more leeway for those on issues ("No War") than for politicians (Vote for Bush).

And, of course, you can't say or imply that you are speaking on behalf of the military.

Civilian spouses and children are just that—civilians. Off base, they aren't governed by the military's limitations. For on base activity, the command can issue orders that take away their right of expression almost the same as service members.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO READ AND KEEP THIS MEMO, OTHER KNOW-YOUR- RIGHTS FLYERS, OR ANTI-WAR MATERIAL

DoD Dir. 1325.6 allows it and then specifies the limitations. One of them is you are not allowed to distribute such literature on base.

If the command finds that you have more than one copy of anything, they may claim that you intend to distribute it.

And you should remember other general rules about communicating, mostly the same as described in the part about what you can say.

You don't want to have literature that calls for the violent overthrow of anything, assassination of anybody, or blowing up anything but the military's targets.

You don't want to have material that violates sexual harassment regulations, and you don't want to have racist literature. Civilians have the right to have all of these things.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO TALK WITH AND GET HELP FROM A CIVILIAN ATTORNEY.

It's a right you should exercise. And it's also perfectly legal to talk with and get help from a military counselor--a non-attorney who can give information about discharges, administrative complaints, and many of your rights.

SO WHAT'S THE DOWN SIDE?

With the rights talked about here, we've also mentioned the main limitations on the rights--limitations the military uses to make it more difficult for folks to speak out about their opinions and to protest against policies and unjust wars.

Unfortunately, as you know, the military can restrict things you do off base as well as on, and can punish you for violating the UCMJ (which, in effect, requires you to obey most civilian laws) even out in town.

It's important to know how far the regulations protect you, and not assume the protection is perfect.

Another limitation is that courts have allowed the military to require its members to submit some things for approval before mailing or publishing them. For example look at the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Glines*, 444 U.S. 348 (1980).

In civilian life this would absolutely violate the first amendment of the Constitution; it's called "prior restraint."

The U.S. Supreme Court, in cases where GI's were seeking rights similar to those of civilians, has said, "the military is, by necessity, a specialized society separate from civilian society We have also recognized that the military has, again by necessity, developed laws and traditions of its own during its long history. The differences between the military and civilian communities result from the fact that it is the primary business of armies and navies to fight or ready to fight wars should the occasion arise. . . . An army is not a deliberative body. It is the executive arm. Its law is that of obedience."

(We think armies and navies would most effectively fight for democracy if the soldiers and sailors had democratic rights themselves but the courts don't agree and, in any event, many believe it's been a long time since the U.S. military has done much fighting for democracy.)

The Court was writing in the context of the battlefield and preparing for it, but military commanders, given this inch, try to take it a mile.

When they do so they can come up against the fact that both the Supreme Court and the Court of Military Appeals have said the law of blind obedience "does not reach all disagreement with, or objection to, a policy of the Government."

According to the courts, that allows GI's a good bit of free speech off duty, off base, and out of uniform.

The main regulation carries this forward by saying "The Service members' right of expression should be preserved to the maximum extent possible, consistent with good order and discipline and the national security"

But then it leaves figuring that out to "the calm and prudent judgment of the responsible commander."

Yeah, sure.

You don't have to be in the military long to find out that commands sometimes ignore the rules and retaliate against whistleblowers and troublemakers and protesters.

Sometimes innocent and completely legal actions can lead to retaliation--poor performance evaluations, bad recommendations, and bogus disciplinary charges.

Sometimes folks are labeled as troublemakers and face informal harassment from co-workers and superiors (but sometimes this backfires—it produces admiration from co-workers).

There are several ways to challenge this sort of thing.

Getting some legal assistance is the first step — you can talk with a military counselor and/or an attorney who's familiar with military law.

They can give you information about ways to challenge illegal retaliation-- sometimes through Article 138 complaints, which commands really hate, sometimes through the Military Whistleblower Protection Act and sometimes through tier legal channels.

And an attorney or counselor can help you put together a complaint or can communicate with your command about the problem.

In fighting back against harassment like this, it helps to be able to show that you don't deserve the bad marks and, if possible, to show that your protest activities were the real reason the command developed an attitude and took action against you.

Since the war in Iraq started, lots of soldiers have talked to the media, both in Iraq and in the states, saying they want to come home and the war is wrong.

Some have talked and written to members of Congress to oppose the war.

Many have marched in demonstrations.

So far, the military hasn't done much to stop this, because the dissent is strong and because many Americans support soldiers who want to come home now.

But some commands have threatened soldiers and sailors, even for actions like these that are completely legal.

And experience teaches us that retaliation and false charges can be serious.

The best way to protect yourself is to be prepared in advance—before you use your rights, read the regulations for yourself.

Talk with an attorney or counselor and try to arrange in advance for legal backup in case your command develops an attitude.

It's also important to think about whether you are vulnerable — whether there is anything in your record or any action pending against you that might be a problem if your command wants to cause you trouble.

Here, too, an attorney or counselor can help you to be sure you have as much protection as possible against harassment or retaliation.

And remember, if officials ask you questions about subjects that could get you in trouble, even if you believe you were in the right, you don't have to answer.

But you can't lie. Saying "I don't know" when you do know is a lie.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

If we don't speak out, we deny our rights all by ourselves

If we don't use the regulations that let us protest a bad war, the regulations just sit there.

But if we don't protect ourselves while we protest, then the protections built into the regulations end up being useless.

Some advance preparation is the best way to use these rights; knowledge is power.

And using your rights is important for you, for others caught in a bad war, for democracy, and for all of us.

BY THE BOOK; INTERESTING REGULATIONS

DoD Directive 1325.6, Guidelines for Handling Dissident and Protest Activities, and the individual services' echoes, AF Policy Directive 51- 9, AR 600-20 Appendix B; MCO 5370.4A, and OPNAVINST 1620.IA. There are often local directives, too.

DoD Dir. 1334.1, you can't be in uniform while demonstrating

DoD Directive 1354.1, don't join a labor organization

DoD Directive 1325.6; AR 600-220; AFI 51-903; MCO 5370.4A; and OPNAVINST 1620.1A try to prevent advocating racial, gender, or ethnic hatred

DoD Directive 7050.6, implementing the Military Whistleblower Protection Act, 10 U.S.C. § 1034 (which also includes right to complain to members of Congress whether blowing a whistle or not)

Statutes That Bite:

UJCMJ arts. 88, 117, 133 (for officers) 134 10 U.S.C. 976, don't join a labor organization

Statutes That Help:

10 U.S.C. § 774, you can wear items of religious apparel while in uniform unless it would interfere with performance of duty, subject to some procedures and definitions in DoD Directive 1300.17

10 U.S.C. 1034 and UCMJ art. 138, right to complain to high officers, Inspector General, and members of Congress

The U.S. Constitution Helps More:

Especially the first amendment (free expression) and fifth amendment (due process including racial equality)

**FOR NON-PROFIT LEGAL HELP AGAINST
THE MACHINE:
[HTTP://NLGMLTF.ORG/CONTACT/](http://nlgmltf.org/contact/)**

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE
MILITARY?**



U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes.

Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to injustices, inside the armed services and at home.

Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2472 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Afghanistan Funds Murderous Militias As US Military Ignores Chaos: U.S. Government Money Goes To Afghan Spy Agency, Which Arms Groups Supposed To Fight Taliban But Militia Leaders Instead Target Local Officials; “They Are Kidnappers, Robbers And Killers. They Are Worse Than The Taliban”

26 December 2016 by Sune Engel Rasmussen in Kabul, The Guardian

The US military and the CIA are turning a blind eye as Afghanistan’s spy agency spends foreign donor money on militias which are committing human rights abuses that help destabilise the fragile country, according to local and western officials.

The Afghan national directorate of security (NDS) arms strongmen ostensibly to fight the Taliban and other militants. But some militia leaders use their new power to fight local turf wars, including against elected government officials, rather than insurgents.

One such commander, Perim Qul, in the northern province of Takhar, has received about \$85,000 (£70,000) to arm 500 men. However, he spends part of that money on a private prison where he beats and extorts local people. His men have even ambushed and killed a local politician.

One evening in July, Perim Qul’s men detained a man named Najib as he was relaxing outside the hotel he owns. After several days’ beating, Najib said he would acquiesce to their demands for cash and asked for a phone to request the \$3,000 they demanded.

Instead, he called police, who rescued him.

Najib sent photos of his bruised back and legs to the provincial prosecutor, and got one of his tormentors arrested.

“I have no enmity with Perim Qul. I am just a simple hotel owner,” Najib said.

That kind of justice, though minor, is rare in Rustaq district.

Qul, a 55-year-old war veteran with no official title, has been running Rustaq like a fiefdom for over a decade. Local residents say he has opposed any attempt – including by the government – to assert authority there. To pay his men, he allegedly coerces civilians.

So when the Afghan government last year approved Qul’s request to enroll in its anti-Taliban militia program, many local people were concerned. Hundreds protested outside the district government building.

Contemporary western security reports obtained by the Guardian warned that reinforcing Qul’s militia could add to violence, crime and territorial rivalries.

Qul got money for 500 men. In reality, police officials believe, he commands up to 1,500.

Meanwhile, there are only 35 national police officers to maintain security in the entire district, said Gulistan Samadi, a former district police chief.

“I don’t believe in these uprising groups. They are irresponsible. They don’t care about the government,” Samadi said. “They are kidnapers, robbers and killers. They are worse than the Taliban.”

Shortly after Qul received the spy agency money, his men ambushed a vehicle carrying a local rival, the provincial council member Aynuddin Rustaqi, killed one bodyguard and abducted him.

Rustaqi was eventually released, but a few months later, he was less fortunate.

In April, an argument between the politician and the strongman turned violent, according to witnesses and western security analysts.

After two militia members were killed, Rustaqi found himself surrounded in the local government headquarters by 200 armed men. During a more than two-hour standoff, no government forces intervened, and Rustaqi was eventually killed alongside three supporters and another person.

“The government can’t stop them because they don’t have the force,” said Najib, the hotel owner.

Rustaqi was a vocal critic of the government’s arming of irregular militias. His son said he was a victim of nothing more than a brutal show of force.

“For 13 years Perim Qul has tried to run for provincial council, but he doesn’t have public support. Now, he has a lot of armed men,” said Ahmad Jawad, the son.

In an interview, Perim Qul admitted that his chief enemy was not the Taliban, whom he was paid to fight. It was the local governing political party.

“We will fight alongside any group to get rid of the oppression of Jamiat,” he said, referring to the Tajik-majority party in the north, which he says discriminates against people of other ethnicities.

“We don’t care if it’s Taliban or Isis. If anyone throws a stone at our enemy, we will fight with them.”

Qul said he was not out to unseat the government. “If the government provides security and asks us to put down our weapons, we will disarm,” he said.

The People’s Uprising program is reminiscent of a controversial local police scheme, ALP, initially introduced by the US military to build village-level resistance to the Taliban and help foreign forces withdraw from Afghanistan.

However, the ALP has been widely criticised for employing child soldiers, abusive behaviour, and creating fertile ground for armed opposition such as the Taliban.

While the US does not directly support People’s Uprising groups, the militias are bankrolled by the National Directorate of Security – and the bulk of NDS funding is believed to come from the CIA.

In the past, the CIA has run paramilitary Afghan units responsible for killing civilians. More recently, the Washington Post has reported that the CIA also funds and operates alongside ruthless militias in the Afghan east.

A spokesman for the CIA refused to comment.

The Afghan government said it worked “with a lot of precaution” when supporting People’s Uprising groups. It insisted that the program had been “effective in most of the cases”, said Haroon Chakhansuri, a presidential spokesman.

The NDS officially declined to comment, but a local NDS official in Takhar province said the allegations against Perim Qul in this article were well founded.

While the US military said it did not fund the Afghan intelligence agency, it did support the army and police, whose jobs become more difficult when violence flares up. Yet, international forces claim to not discuss the militia program with the Afghan government.

“It’s just not a topic we’re engaging the government on,” said Charles H Cleveland, the international coalition’s spokesman. “It’s a sovereign nation; they make sovereign decisions.” Cleveland did not see militia leaders like Qul undermining security.

“I have not seen any hard facts to support what you’re saying,” he said. “But I’ll grant you, you can go anywhere in Afghanistan and find almost anything.”

However, an informed coalition staff member said the US military was fully aware of Perim Qul’s activities but turned a blind eye, perhaps because the regular Afghan forces were stretched so thin they depended on vigilante militias.

“They are not ignoring it out of ignorance. They are ignoring it with intent,” he said.

The same reasoning might apply to the Afghan government, which is mired in political crisis and a long-running war.

As one western official put it: “While the government is busy in Kabul, Perim Qul is carving out his own little empire.”

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

The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy.

-- David Cortright; *Soldiers In Revolt*

Iraq Veteran Misses Simpler Time Fighting Unwinnable War: “The Days Of Executing Vague Strategic Directives With Little To No Accountability Or Tangible Benefit To Most Americans Are But A Distant Memory”

**“He Secretly Yearns To Go Back To
Fighting A Faceless, Nameless Enemy
For Questionable-At-Best Reasons”**



January 1, 2017 by Jack S. McQuack, The Duffle Blog

CLARKSTON, Mich. — While US advisers slog their way across northern Iraq with sub-standard Iraqi forces and US troops once again deploy to the region, some veterans are reflecting on their own fighting of an un-winnable war against an ambiguous enemy they, unwittingly or otherwise, helped create.

“Yes, I can grow a beard, start my own t-shirt, coffee, flip-flop, or humor website, or even become a Fox News analyst, but the grass isn’t always greener,” said Jared Glossner, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran who was honorably discharged in 2007 with a four-year engineering degree and nearly a dozen job prospects.

“The days of executing vague strategic directives with little to no accountability or tangible benefit to most Americans are but a distant memory.”

Glossner, a former platoon leader and executive officer with the 10th Mountain Division, has been gainfully employed the last nine years and admittedly happily married to his high-school sweetheart. While he tells everyone he meets he is “blessed,” Glossner told reporters that he secretly yearns to go back to fighting a faceless, nameless enemy for questionable-at-best reasons while being responsible solely for keeping his (containerized housing unit) swept.

“Man, I wish I could arbitrarily distribute hundreds of millions of dollars in funds for infrastructure improvements that may or may have not been directly funneled to extremist groups,” said Glossner writing a check for one of his family’s multiple annual vacations.

“Even if the money was going to Iran, or Syria, or Russia, or the CIA, my paycheck was still deposited into my checking account.”

That’s in stark contrast, Glossner says, to today’s situation, in which he is measured against a specific set of metrics and paid based on how well he performs his job. To make matters worse, he added, almost every single cent of his paycheck is accounted for by his wife and spent responsibly on groceries, home improvements, and sporadic yet restful weekend getaways.

“Nowadays, companies have ‘goals.’ Managers expect ‘results.’ Customers want to be ‘delighted,” said Glossner from the comfort of his 2,500 square foot home in the rarefied air of the richest county in Michigan.

“I would give anything to go back to maintaining my weapon and blowing my paycheck on bootleg DVDs in some third-world hellhole.”

“I mean Jesus Christ,” said Glossner, gesturing emptily to a desktop calendar completely filled with anniversaries, birthdays, and social obligations with friends and loved ones, “I just want to be part of something that matters again.”

At press time, Glossner was seen staring at the wall of his windowless office daydreaming about his time in theater staring at a similarly windowless porta-potty wall.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Trump's Cabinet Picks Have More Wealth Than Third of American Households Combined

15 December 16 By Jennifer Calfas, The Hill

The 17 people filling President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet and similar positions earn more money than a third of households in America combined, Quartz reported Thursday.

The amount of wealth possessed by the 17 picks, at least \$9.5 billion, is greater than the 43 million least wealthy households in America.

Quartz included Vice President-elect Mike Pence and Reince Priebus, Trump's chief of staff, on its list.

The wealthiest members of Trump's Cabinet include Education pick Betsy DeVos, who is worth \$5.1 billion, and Commerce pick Wilbur Ross, who is worth \$2.9 billion.

Trump himself would be the wealthiest president in U.S. history, and his Cabinet appears set to be at least among the wealthiest.

It is wealthier than the past two administrations.

The New York Daily News compared President Obama's richest Cabinet members' wealth compared with Trump's picks, and all of them were still less wealthy than Trump's choices for the same positions.

President George W. Bush's entire first administration was worth \$250 million — which is one-tenth of the wealth Ross possesses on his own, The Washington Post reported

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**More Than Fifty Thousand
Palestinians Are Suffering After
Israeli Occupation Forces
Besieged Multiple Villages In
Ramallah, West Bank:**

“Their Ability To Move Depends On The Mood Of The Soldiers” “The Soldiers Often Send Locals Attempting To Enter Or Exit Their Hometowns Away And Forbid Them From Passing”



28 December 2016 by Ahmad Jaradat, Alternative Information Center

More than fifty thousand Palestinians are suffering after Israeli occupation forces besieged multiple villages in Ramallah, West Bank.

Israeli occupation forces have blocked civilians from entering and exiting their own villages and towns in the Ramallah district of the West Bank for two weeks.

Entryways to Deir Nzam village, northwest of Ramallah, were closed with military barriers. Locals must walk on foot to get into the village. Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint along the main road routinely stop passersby and check ID cards.

The Israeli occupation also closed Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah. Two weeks ago, a military checkpoint was erected at its main entrance.

For two weeks the villages of Ras Karkar and Deir Bze'a have been suffering from the closure of their main street too. Israeli soldiers are stationed near a military checkpoint in al-Enab area. They closed an iron gate to block the road.

On Wednesday, Israeli soldiers closed the road that connects Jalazoun refugee camp to the city of Ramallah and al-Bireh. A barrier was put in place next to the nearby settlement of Beit El. Residents of Jalazoun camp as well as those living in nearby villages must use alternative routes via Bir Zeit – a much longer journey into the city.

On Monday evening, the soldiers closed another iron gate, isolating Bani Zaid al-Gharbiyya.

Israeli soldiers also set up checkpoints recently at the entrances to the villages of Um Safa, Aboud, Deir Abu Mash'al and Rantis, north of Ramallah. Residents in the areas report that their ability to move depends on the mood of the soldiers. The soldiers often send locals attempting to enter or exit their hometowns away and forbid them from passing or simply cause delays.

Additionally, the Israeli army invades these villages nightly and violently search civilian homes. The raids are sometimes deadly.

A few nights ago, when the soldiers entered Beit Rima village for the third night that week, clashes broke out with youth. The soldiers opened the fire and killed the child Ahmed Al Rimawi.

Mustafa Barghouthi, the General Secretary of the National Initiative, described Israeli occupation forces closure of the villages in the Ramallah area as collective punishment.

Zionist Soldiers Who Beat Journalists With Clubs Before Detaining Them Escape Punishment: “It Has Taken The Israeli Army Three Years To Conduct Disciplinary Proceedings Against The Commanding Officers Who Gave The Orders”

30 December 2016 by Charlotte Silver, The Electronic Intifada

In 2012, Israeli soldiers attacked a group of foreign and Palestinian journalists, beating them with clubs before detaining them.

It has taken the Israeli army three years to conduct disciplinary proceedings against the commanding officers who gave the orders.

Footage from the incident, which took place in the occupied West Bank village of Kufr Qaddum, shows a crew of five journalists wearing gas masks, helmets, and vests marked as “PRESS,” as they walk down an empty street.

The journalists had been covering the village’s weekly demonstration against being cut off from their land.

Two Israeli military jeeps speed up the road towards the journalists, who move to the side of the road. Soldiers then exit the vehicles, stop the journalists and begin grabbing their equipment and hitting their bodies with clubs.

At least two of the journalists appear to be detained, while another is forced to the ground as he screams in agony. One of the injured journalists in the ambush was Jaafer Ashtiyeh, a photographer with the AFP news agency.

Ashtiyeh was only informed last month that the commanding officer and the battalion commander were disciplined over a year ago, after three years of the investigation languishing.

According to the Tel Aviv newspaper Haaretz, the military police immediately opened an investigation at the time of the incident but it was left dormant until 2014, when Ashtiyeh filed a civil suit against the Israeli government.

Israel's military investigations are notoriously ineffective.

Earlier this year, B'Tselem stopped cooperating with them, stating "We will no longer aid a system that whitewashes investigations and serves as a fig leaf for the occupation."

Of the 739 cases of alleged abuse of Palestinians since 2000 that B'Tselem has demanded the army investigate, only 25 ever resulted in disciplinary action. B'Tselem says that a quarter of the complaints never prompted an investigation at all.

The military police only began to complete its investigation into the assault on journalists in Kufr Qaddum after Ashtiyeh's lawsuit was filed.

A year later, in August 2015, former Military Advocate General Danny Efroni recommended that disciplinary proceedings against the commanding officers begin.

According to Haaretz, the military found the company commander had ordered the use of excessive force. After he was reprimanded, the commander left the army. Haaretz does not indicate that he was asked to resign.

In fact, Haaretz reports that the army deliberately chose to enact low-level disciplinary proceedings out of consideration for an unrelated personal tragedy in the commander's life.

The battalion commander was reprimanded for negligence for not sufficiently training soldiers on how to use clubs.

"It was found ... that while preparing for violent disturbances of the peace, and while intending to limit the use of potentially lethal means, it was decided to equip some of the members of the (Israeli army) force with clubs," the military said in a statement to Haaretz.

"Still, in carrying out arrests, the soldiers used force that exceeded what was necessary."

None of the soldiers who beat the journalists were disciplined or charged, on the grounds that they were following orders.

Ashtiyeh's civil suit ended in a settlement that includes monetary compensation.

Human rights groups have documented habitual physical attacks by Israeli forces against Palestinian journalists. Earlier this month, the Committee to Protect Journalists revealed that Israel remains one of the world's worst jailers of reporters, all of whom are Palestinians.

Home Demolitions By Occupation Forces Break Records, Shatter Lives In 2016: “Demolitions Intended To Keep Palestinians Confined To Small Pockets And To Maintain The Induced Housing Shortage So That Palestinians Will Be Forced Out”



A Palestinian boy sits on a sofa following the 26 October 2016 demolition of his family's home, which Israel said was built without a permit, in occupied East Jerusalem's Silwan neighborhood. The destruction of the multi-unit building left 30 people, mostly children, homeless, in a year which saw Israel's demolitions of Palestinian buildings break all records. (Mahfouz Abu Turk / APA images)

30 December 2016 by Charlotte Silver, The Electronic Intifada

Israel has demolished or seized a record number of Palestinian buildings throughout the West Bank in 2016, according to the United Nations, displacing over 1,500 people.

In its year-end report, the UN humanitarian coordination agency OCHA states that Israel demolished 1,089 structures, double the number in 2015.

The demolitions and seizures displaced 1,593 persons and affected the livelihoods of another 7,000.

These are the highest figures for displacement and demolitions in the occupied West Bank since OCHA began tracking them in 2009.

The staggering rate of demolitions and displacement kicked off early in 2016, and barely relented over the 12 months.

On one cold morning in February, the Israeli army conducted what some described as the single largest demolition in over a decade, razing 23 Palestinian homes in two villages in the South Hebron Hills and leaving 100 people homeless.

In June, the nonprofit Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, or Euro-Med, recorded more demolitions of European-funded structures in the first three months of 2016 than in all of 2015.

An average of 165 privately and internationally funded structures were demolished or partially destroyed each month, according to Euro-Med, representing a more than three-fold increase from the previous rate of 50 demolitions per month between 2012 and 2015.

The OCHA report notes that the majority of demolitions were officially carried out because the structures had been built without permits.

But building licenses are nearly impossible to obtain for Palestinians.

According to recent data from Israel's Civil Administration, the military bureaucracy that rules the lives of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, Israel has demolished 18 times as many structures as the number of building permits it granted Palestinians in Area C of the West Bank.

Under the Oslo agreements of the early 1990s, the West Bank was divided into areas A, B and C. Areas A and B are under nominally full or partial control of the Palestinian Authority, while Area C, which makes up about 60 percent of the land, is under full Israeli military control.

The Israeli group Bimkom-Planners for Planning Rights obtained the data documenting that Palestinians requested a total of 1,253 building permits between 2014 and 2016 and were granted a mere 53.

Of the three years, 2016 saw the highest number of permits issued, at 37 for 428 requests through June.

Occupied East Jerusalem also saw a doubling of demolitions, with 154 structures destroyed between January and October alone.

On one day in October, Israel destroyed the homes of more than 40 people in the city. This included the multi-unit building of the Jaafreh family in the Silwan neighborhood, which had been the home to an extended family of 30, mostly children.

The building, belonging to the Jaafreh family, had been built 17 years earlier. The family had tried in vain to get permits from the Israeli authority for the past nine years.

“These demolitions are intended mainly to keep Palestinians confined to small pockets and to maintain the induced housing shortage so that Palestinians will be forced out of the city, thereby keeping the desired overwhelming Jewish presence in the city,” Jeff Halper, the founder of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, told the publication Al-Monitor in August.

As for Israel’s demolitions in the Jordan Valley and the South Hebron hills, some analysts fear the increase portends annexation.

Last week, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution that reaffirmed, for the first time in years, that “all (Israeli) measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem” are violations of international law.

This includes settlement construction and the “demolition of homes and displacement of Palestinian civilians.”

Over the summer, Israeli human rights group B’Tselem reported the record number of demolitions.

It noted that most were carried out in small, underprivileged communities located far from Palestinian population centers, primarily in the Jordan Valley and the South Hebron Hills, as well as east of Jerusalem.

B’Tselem describes Israel’s policy of systematic demolitions as constituting the “forced transfer” of Palestinian residents in the occupied West Bank.

“The extensive demolitions are part of a broader Israeli policy in Area C,” B’Tselem writes. “This policy is based on the approach that this area, which spans some 60 percent of the West Bank, is intended primarily to serve Israeli needs.”

“Accordingly, Israel acts to establish facts on the ground and to create a reality that it will be difficult to change in any future agreement.”

Indeed, these “facts on the ground” have already delivered an apartheid one-state reality.

**“On Behalf Of Anti-Zionist Jews
Worldwide, We Greet With
Enthusiasm The Recent United
Nations Security Council
Resolution 2334 Condemning
Israeli Settlements As Illegal”
“The Concept Of The State Of Israel
Is Entirely Illegitimate And
Forbidden”
“The Crime Is Compounded When The
Creation Of This Homeland Entails The
Occupation, Oppression, Subjugation
And Expulsion Of Another People”**

26/12/16 Neturei Karta

Statement by Neturei Karta International in Reaction to U.N. Security Council Resolution
Condemning Israeli Settlements

On behalf of anti-Zionist Jews worldwide, we of Neturei Karta International, Jews United Against Zionism, greet with enthusiasm the recent United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 condemning Israeli settlements as illegal.

For decades, the settlements have been a major cause for bloodshed and unrest in the Holy Land. Hundreds of innocent lives have been sacrificed on the altar of nationalism and lust for land. We congratulate the countries in the Security Council for taking this long-overdue step toward justice and peace.

And in particular, we congratulate the President of the State of Palestine, His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas, on his success in achieving the passage of this resolution.

At the same time, we wish to reiterate the Torah position that it is not just the West Bank that is illegally occupied. Jews have been sent into exile by the Almighty, and any kind

of Jewish sovereignty over any territory is a violation of that decree. Therefore the concept of the State of Israel is entirely illegitimate and forbidden.

The crime is compounded when the creation of this homeland entails the occupation, oppression, subjugation and expulsion of another people.

Before the era of Zionism, Jews lived in Palestine in peace and security, side by side with the Palestinian Arab population. We fervently hope for the day when Jews return to abiding by the laws of the Torah and living in peace with all peoples.

As Jews, we have always been especially pained by the actions of the State of Israel in general, and the radical settlers in particular, since they claim to be acting in our name.

Predictably, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has reacted with anger to this clear demonstration of unanimous world opinion against his state's crimes. Drawing on Jewish themes, he has cast himself in the role of the Maccabee fighters whose victories we celebrate on Chanukah, and the Security Council nations as their enemies.

Let no one be fooled. The State of Israel has nothing to do with Judaism, and on the contrary, it has consistently tried to extinguish Torah observance and values. The Torah values life and service of the Almighty, while Zionism values land conquest and secular culture.

The Maccabees did not go to battle for freedom or independence; they wanted only the right to continue to practice Judaism. If any comparison is to be made to the Chanukah story, it is of Netanyahu and his fellow Zionists to the enemies of the Jewish people in the time of the Maccabees.

Netanyahu has vowed to continue building settlements, but we appeal to the world to realize that the Jewish people in general are not behind him.

This show of defiance against the world community and the United States for taking up a just cause is completely against the Torah. American Orthodox Jews in particular, as loyal citizens enjoined by the Torah to respect their president, are embarrassed and completely disgusted by Netanyahu and his supporters' vicious attacks on President Obama.

We also wish to state that the Zionists have no right to control the Western Wall and other holy sites of Jerusalem.

All claims the Israeli government makes to these places are baseless.

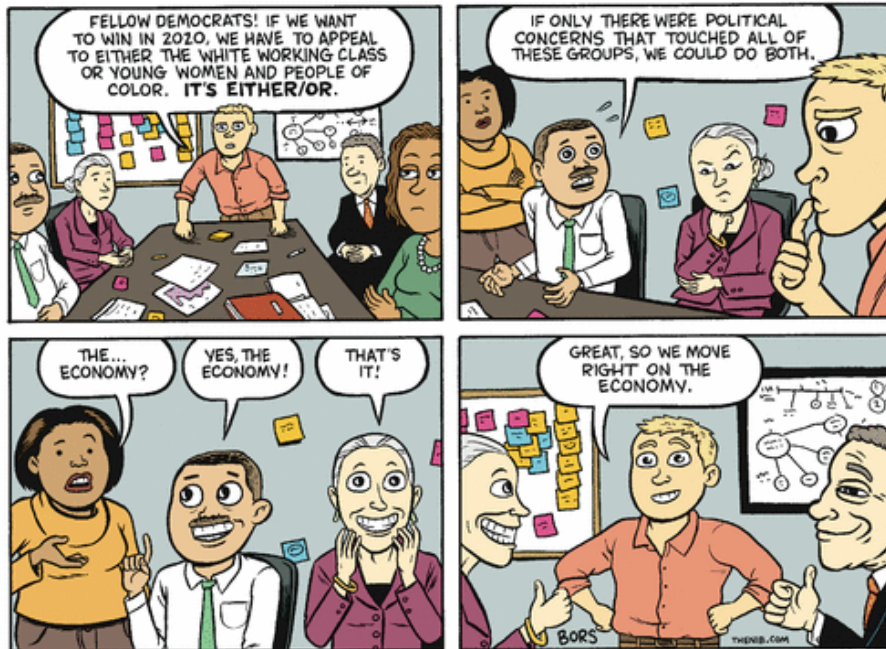
Furthermore, the recent U.N. General Assembly resolution that the State of Israel has no right to impose its laws on these places, in no way detracts from the holiness of these sites in the eyes of Jews.

In these days of Chanukah, may the Almighty send a spirit of repentance into Jewish hearts, so that they look into the Torah and resolve to follow its guidance.

And may we be privileged to see peace in the Middle East and the entire world. Amen.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome.

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VIETNAM GI: REPRINTS AVAILABLE

Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

"... he threw his rifle at his Commanding Officer..."



WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "free" trips to South Vietnam and South Korea shouldn't feel guilty about accepting such "gifts" from the Government. Lots of hawk politicians are taking Government trips too. Of course, their trips are a little bit different.

Take Senator Edward V. Long (D-La.), the Senate Judiciary Committee highest ranking Vietnam supporter in January was speeded up by graft scandals. The good Senator decided that as a last sacrifice to his country he would give himself TDY to Europe. The reason was to "get firsthand information on foreign aid and military assistance programs." Doubtless, that's why he took his wife along.

Of special interest was his visit to

Switzerland, which neither gets US aid nor wants any. It doesn't really make any difference, since as soon as Senator Long returned from his "fact-finding mission" he returned from the Senate, thus depriving our Congress of all his "facts" (mostly on nightclubs and night hotels).

Going to and from Europe Long traveled on Senate funds, but while on TDY there, he economized by using US military aircraft, cars and chauffeurs to get around. The Pentagon ordered the red carpet rolled out around the world. Nothing too good for a retiring hawk politician. As the saying goes, in America we're all equal — only some are more equal than others!

As we go to press we learn that the government has finally agreed on the shape of the table and seating arrangements for the Paris talks. Now that everyone is seated and comfortable, maybe we can expect further "breakthroughs."

The grim fact is that while the government honchos are living in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began speaking last May, 1,000 GIs have been killed in action.

Talks or no talks, the only solution is to get the hell out of Nam, immediately. Stop talking and start shipping us home.

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that

Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with five years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, mostly in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, VGI spoke to him while he was on leave awaiting his second Nam tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1972 we've left out his name.

VGI: How did you feel about the war when you were over there. Did your feelings change?

A: When I first went over there, I thought it would be a great thing to do, and a great new experience of being in war. I really thought it was going to be something different. But then I got put on some of those patrols and I got to see the people and got to talk to the people. This was the big thing that finally changed me. I finally saw that it wasn't worth while, and that they actually don't want our help because it actually isn't help.

VGI: Did you have any contacts with the Vietnamese, with the people?

A: There was a place called Her Son and for a while I was stationed down at the bridge there. This is where I lived, ate, slept, drank, everything. There were houses right next to my bunker, we had an address for OPs and we gave everybody else addresses. We explained to the people what the addresses were and they got all shook up about the whole thing, soon they got addresses too.

VGI: What was it like, living there?

A: We lived with them, we shared our food with them. They used to really go for the little treats in the coconut palms, the gum and the coconut cigarettes and everything, and in turn they'd bring back bananas. There was this one girl, her name was—I can't think of her name now—I had her picture but I lost it. This one girl, she really stands out in my mind because she used to come over and bring us beer every day and in turn, all she expected from us was the empty boxes of crates, that's all she wanted, the empty boxes. But then we started putting little things in the empty boxes and told her we wanted her to have them.

VGI: What would she want with the empty boxes?

A: I don't know, the Vietnamese people, they could take an empty can of nothing and make something out of it. She made me a soapdish which she had made out of a cation tin. She had poked it out with a nail and a hammer. It had a little handle on it and I wore it all the time. I actually got to feel naked after I lost it.

But yet, later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the marines naturally went in pursuit. In order to stop them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and later she died.

VGI: Did the brass give you any stank about being with the Vietnamese?

A: The accident when I almost got into the VC was, there was a convoy of about 12 to 14 trucks. I think it was. We had a whole bunch of plywood on it and we took this plywood over to a village, that in Her Son, he was one of

the stinks. We dropped off something like 14 sheets of plywood. Naturally, when we got back, there was one truckload of plywood missing, and they asked where it was. They later found out that I had given it to this village chief, not for my own good relations with him, but because there was times when we didn't get resupplied at our observation point, and they brought us food. So we gave them something else in return.

interview

VGI: What are some of the things you saw and did that led you into deciding in the middle of Nam not to fight anymore?

A: Well, I saw times when COL Bill Fisher when he would tell his men to dismantle their personal-carrying flame-throwers, take them out on a company sleep and put them back together once they got out. He went into a village and told them, "Are there any Viet Cong here?" The village chief naturally said "No" because he knew that if he said yes, he didn't know what'd happen to him. Then COL Fisher said, "Well, if there is any Viet Cong in this village, we'll show you what's going to happen." He got one of his flame men up to the house, he didn't check to see if there was anybody in it or not. Later we found out there was a woman in there who was real sick, she couldn't move or anything. She was burned to death. It was terrible. And seeing guys being carried in on ponies. A full-grown man weighed about two pounds after he was brought in as a sack of raw flesh or something like that.

VGI: Did you see any other incidents like this?

A: There was this little village just out of Her Son where we brought out one and got our ice. It's not poetry, it's really true. It was just this small village, maybe 16 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, all and on there'd be Viet Cong waiting the area. No hostilities at all, they'd just go in there to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Full", "Full" came over and leveled the whole village down. I think maybe three people lived out of the whole thing. One was a little baby about two years old whose mother and father was gone.

One of the guys sort of adopted this kid, this little two year old. He took this kid real close. When we went to R and R we brought him back toys and trucks and things like that. It was really something, because they don't get too many trucks over there. We'd round up a few dump trucks and stuff like that from Hong Kong. They were really surprised to see the new toys. I mean, the toys they play with, old cation cans and stuff like that are their toys. They're a fascinating people. If you just have an opportunity to see them, to get to know them. They're really great.

VGI: How do you think they feel about us?

A: This one incident—I know of the latter one north Vietnamese who was down south wrote to his brother up north who was intent on coming down

Continued on page 8

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

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