

**Military Resistance 15A7**

**“Mexico Engulfed In A  
Nationwide Rebellion  
Ignited By Gasoline  
Price Hikes”**

**“In Rosarito Protesters Cheered  
As A Man Intentionally Drove  
His Pickup Into A Group Of  
Federal Police Officers”**

**“The Price Hike, Which Many  
Believe Will Lead To Higher Prices  
For Food And Household Goods,  
Is Opposed By 99% Of Mexicans”**

**“Thousands Marched At A Large  
Demonstration In Mexico City On  
Monday — The Second Major Protest  
In The Capital In Four Days”**

**“‘Out, Peña!’ Chanted Crowd Members,  
Who Included University Students And**

# Grandmothers, As They Took Over Reforma, The City's Biggest Boulevard”



Protesters march during a demonstration against the rising prices of gasoline enforced by the Mexican government. teleSUR

**On Saturday, Mexican news stations aired video of a pickup truck intentionally crashing into police officers in Rosarito, where federal authorities had donned riot gear to evict protesters who took over a Pemex distribution center for several days.**

January 9, 2017 By Kate Linthicum, LA Times & January 12, 2017 By Emilio Godoy, The Wire

**In Tijuana and Nogales, massive demonstrations over rising gasoline prices forced authorities to temporarily close crossing stations on the U.S.-Mexico border, while in Rosarito protesters cheered as a man intentionally drove his pickup into a group of federal police officers.**

**More than a week after the government of President Enrique Peña Nieto deregulated gasoline prices, which instantly rose as much as 20%, Mexico is engulfed in a nationwide rebellion.**

**Four people have been killed and more than 1,500 arrested while looting, staging road blockades and marching in protests such as the weekend demonstrations in Rosarito and along the border.**

The price hike, which many believe will lead to higher prices for food and household goods, is opposed by 99% of Mexicans, according to a recent poll, and has drawn the condemnation of business groups, truckers unions, leaders of the political opposition and even the Catholic Church.

**Thousands of people marched at a large demonstration in Mexico City on Monday — the second major protest in the capital in four days.**

**“Out, Peña!” chanted crowd members, who included university students and grandmothers, as they took over Reforma, the city’s biggest boulevard.**

In a televised address Thursday, Peña Nieto asked for understanding, saying his government would have been forced to cut funding for social services if it hadn’t raised prices, because of rising fuel costs internationally and the devaluation of the Mexican peso.

“I ask you,” Peña Nieto said, “what would you have done?”

His question was quickly transformed into a social media meme, with thousands of Mexicans offering alternative solutions, including combating corruption at Pemex, Mexico’s state-run oil company, and cutting the gasoline vouchers distributed to elected officials.

Margarita Zavala, the wife of former President Felipe Calderon and a likely 2018 presidential candidate, said in a video posted on her Facebook page that the anger on display in Mexico in recent weeks has less to do with gasoline and more with a perception of corruption and mismanagement among Peña Nieto’s ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI.

The president’s approval rating has fallen to about 25%, and several high-profile current and former members of his party, including ex-governors, face corruption charges.

**“The government thinks the indignation is just a result of gasoline increases, but they’re mistaken,” said Zavala, who belongs to the right-leaning National Action Party, or PAN. “The indignation is also due to the abuse, the lies, the injustice and the corruption.”**

“There’s discontentment across the country,” said Julieta Cañez, 35, a Mexico City therapist who took the day off work to march with her husband and toddler.

“My grocery bill is rising. I’m afraid to leave my house because of the violence. We march so that they hear us because it feels like they don’t.”

The deregulation of gasoline prices is part of a larger effort to attract outside investment in Mexico’s oil industry.

For decades, Pemex was the only company authorized to sell gasoline in Mexico, and the government set fuel prices, often kicking in healthy subsidies.

The government decided to eliminate those subsidies and deregulate prices on New Year's Day ahead of a change that will allow international companies to sell gasoline in Mexico later this year.

The change, which also conveniently saves the government money at a time of rising inflation and the devaluation of the peso, led to dramatic increases at the gasoline pump. A gallon of standard-grade unleaded fuel cost roughly \$2.60 on Dec. 31. The next day, it jumped more than 14% to about \$2.95. The price of premium fuel rose by about 20%.

Immediately, protesters took to the streets, blockading highways across the country, taking over gasoline stations and looting major stores.

At least four people were killed in skirmishes with police, according to Mexican authorities. Video of protests near the border in Nogales over the weekend show police firing bullets in the air to disperse protesters.

Human rights groups have urged police to exercise restraint when dealing with protests. Meanwhile, the police have been targeted as well.

**On Saturday, Mexican news stations aired video of a pickup truck intentionally crashing into police officers in Rosarito, where federal authorities had donned riot gear to evict protesters who took over a Pemex distribution center for several days.**

**At least nine officers were injured, with two in grave condition, and the driver is still at large.**

A think tank called Mexico Evalua published an open letter signed by a number of community groups calling on the government to take concrete steps to address the crisis and Mexico's faltering economy. "The inaction of the federal government," it said, "is overwhelming."

**"We are absolutely fed up with the government's plundering and arbitrary decisions. We don't deserve what they're doing to us," said Marisela Campos during one of the many demonstrations against the government's decision to raise fuel prices.**

Campos, a homemaker and mother of two, came to Mexico City from Yautepec, 100 km to the south, to protest the recent economic decisions taken by the administration of conservative President Enrique Peña Nieto.

"Everything's going to go up because of the gasolinazo" – the popular term given the 14-20% increase in fuel prices as of January 1, said Campos, while she held a banner against the measure, in a January 9 demonstration.

"We are opposed to Peña Nieto's way of governing. The price rises and budget cutbacks have been going on since 2014. Now there will be an increase in the cost of the basic food basket and transport rates," Claudia Escobar, who lives on the south side of Mexico City, told IPS during another demonstration.

Escobar, a mother of three, decided to join the protests because of what she described as “serious social disintegration and turmoil”.

**MORE:**

**“Protests In Mexican States  
Along The US-Mexico Border,  
Including San Luis Potosí,  
Coahuila, Sinaloa, And Baja  
California Norte”**

**“Mobilizations Also Took Place In  
The Central States Of Morelos,  
Hidalgo And Mexico City”**

**“In Coahuila, Truck Drivers Set Up  
Barricades Across The Saltillo-  
Monterrey Highway”**

**“Wednesday Marked The 11th Day Of  
Protests”**



January 12, 2017 by Rafael Azul, Countercurrents.org

In the face of continuing protests, marches and occupations in Mexico, the ruling class is looking for political and economic alternatives to Peña Nieto as his political partners, the right-wing National Action Party (PAN) and the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), distance themselves from the gas subsidy cuts in the face of widespread public opposition.

Wednesday marked the 11th day of protests against what has become known as the gasolinazo, the gasoline price shock decreed by the Peña Nieto administration on December 28.

**Protests took place in the Mexican states along the US-Mexico border, including San Luis Potosí, Coahuila, Sinaloa, and Baja California Norte.**

**Mobilizations also took place in the central states of Morelos and Hidalgo and in Mexico City. In Coahuila, truck drivers set up barricades across the Saltillo-Monterrey Highway.**

**To the east, a caravan began in San Luis Potosí for a rally in Mexico City against the next fuel shock scheduled for February.**

Roughly 100 protesters rallied at the Sinaloa provincial legislature in the city of Culiacán denouncing the special 15,000 peso (~\$US 680) year-end subsidies that legislators had approved for themselves and family members. In the city of Cuernavaca, Morelos State, human rights groups protested against the increases in bus fares related to the gasolinazo.

In Baja California Norte, truckers and community members have blocked the Rosarita Pemex distribution center, which supplies gas stations in Mexicali, along the California border.

**Some of the people involved report that following the New Year's Day fuel increase, it is less expensive to purchase gasoline across the border, in Calexico, California than in Mexicali.**

Except for emergency tanker trucks, the demonstrators are preventing all trucks from entering and leaving the terminal. T

The protest began on January 3 and is affecting 240 gas stations in Mexicali, the port of San Felipe and the town of San Luis Río Colorado.

Mexico City taxi drivers also attempted to block the Peño Viejo Metro train station in the Iztapalapa industrial suburb. Police intervened and force them to retreat.

**To the north of Mexico City, In Hidalgo State, small farmers as well as agricultural and urban workers gathered at the Hidalgo legislative building to protest the gasolinazo.**

In the vicinity of the small rural town of El Nith, Hidalgo, where demonstrators are blocking the Mexico City to Laredo highway, officials of the Catholic Church attempted to involve themselves in the demonstration.

Church officials declared their support for the protests and held a mass at the barricades, which have been up since January 2.

This protest was the scene, on January 5, of a violent attack by government forces that resulted in the death of two of young protesters, Fredy Cruz and Alan Giovanni Martínez.

In the midst of these waves of popular protests, the Catholic Church, an institution that in 1988 officially made its peace with the Mexican ruling class and the Mexican state, is intervening on the government's behalf to detour working class anger. Church leaders are now organizing a protest rally at the national legislature Mexico City "for peace and against the gasolinazo."

The "left" bourgeois nationalist Morena movement, led by Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO), is staking out a position that is similar to that of the Church. On Wednesday Morena legislators and those of its congressional partner Citizen's Movement (MC) called for a series of palliative measures to relieve some of the effects of the gasolinazo, such as lowering taxes on transit companies and food stores, in return for not raising fares and prices.

In a January 10 speech, AMLO positioned himself as a presidential candidate for 2018 and called on the legislature to assemble in an emergency budget session to reconsider the gasoline increases and the ones to follow in the context of a revised fiscal budget. His message was delivered as a warning, a way to save the Peña Nieto administration out of this crisis.

Taking a nationalist line, López Obrador called for the building of more refineries to end Mexico's dependency on foreign fuels and to create jobs.

President Peña Nieto is increasingly isolated.

Both parties that signed the Pact for Mexico in 2013 have distanced themselves from the increase in fuel prices, despite the fact that they voted in favor of the hike in the legislature. PRD congressional leader Sánchez Nájera is calling for the cancellation of the fuel price increases, while PAN leader Rafael Delgadillo of Sonora State hypocritically declared his party's total opposition to changes in gasoline prices. Delgadillo described Peña Nieto's claim that the gasolinazo would not be inflationary as "demagogic", and called on the president to listen to the people.

At least one PAN governor has declared that he would not use security forces against the demonstrators.

The Mexican Employers Association, Coparmex, a business organization traditionally aligned with the more nationalist-oriented section of the bourgeoisie and whose members account for about 30 percent of Mexico's GDP, refused on Monday to sign Peña Nieto's Economic Pact. Instead it issued The Pact that Mexico Needs (El Acuerdo que México Necesita), a plan based on even more draconian austerity measures. Like López Obrador and Morena, Coparmex also proposes the building of more refineries

and pipelines, as well as the cancellation of the February gasolinazo. Coparmex proposes that its “Acuerdo” be signed this February.

Already the effects of the fuel shock are adding to Mexico’s inflation. The increase in the daily minimum wage from 73 to 80.04 pesos (US \$3.80), agreed upon last December, that took effect this New Year’s Day, has lost all its buying power. Under the impact of a price explosion in basic items, such as tortillas, beans and now fuel, adjusted for inflation, the new minimum wage represents a regression in living standards, in the space of one month.

**MORE:**

**“A Wave Of Furious Protests Erupted After A Rise In The Country’s Government-Set Petrol Price”**

**“While Ordinary Mexicans Have Seen A Gradual Decline In Spending Power, The Country’s Politicians Have Grown Rich”**

**“Citizens Protest In The Streets And Block Highways, Petrol Stations And Installations Of The State-Run Oil Giant Pemex”**

9 January 2017 by David Agren in Mexico City, The Guardian

**Marching with a boisterous but peaceful crowd through central Mexico City, Héctor Pérez, a sales manager with an insurance company, rattled off a list of grievances to explain a wave of furious protests which erupted after a rise in the country’s government-set petrol price.**

**“It’s not because we all have cars. When gasoline prices go up, everything else goes up: tortillas, public transportation, everything,” said Pérez.**

Pressed a little harder, he voiced another set of reasons for his discontent: President Enrique Peña Nieto and his Institutional Revolutionary party (PRI) justified an agenda of structural reforms with the promise of growth for all – but have instead presided over a stagnating economy.

**Meanwhile, a string of high-profile corruption scandals has heightened the perception that the while ordinary Mexicans have seen a gradual decline in spending power, the country's politicians have grown rich.**

“PRI governors in the states have robbed a lot of money and the president is not able to stop them,” said Pérez, referring to cases such as that of the former governor of Veracruz state Javier Duarte, who is currently on the run after being accused of pilfering the public purse.

Angry protests over the 20% hike in gasoline prices – known as the gasolinazo – have plunged parts of Mexico into chaos as citizens protest in the streets and block highways, petrol stations and installations of the state-run oil giant Pemex. More than 250 stores have been looted, amid allegations that paid agitators infiltrated the protests.

**The gasolinazo provided the spark for the protests, but analysts say social unrest has been quietly building for months.**

The Mexican peso has been steadily dropping in value while threats from the US president-elect, Donald Trump, have sowed disarray in the country's economy.

To Mexicans, public positions are seen as a system of accumulating private riches

**Mexico's minimum wage is just \$4 a day and people are so sensitive to price increases that hikes in the cost of public transportation are one of the principal reasons high school students abandon school, according to the public education secretariat.**

On Monday, the state statistics institute announced that inflation had hit a two-year high of 3.36% – a figure economists expect to climb even higher in 2017.

Even after a decade-long drug war in which an estimated 200,000 have died and a string of horrific human rights abuses such as the kidnapping and presumed murder of 43 teacher trainees in 2014, the gasolinazo appears too much for Mexicans to accept.

“This is an affront to people,” said Ilán Semo, historian at the Iberoamerican University. “There are policy errors (and)] corruption. But normally it's not something that hits people's pocketbooks.”

**The government's sense of timing did not help: the announcement of the gasolinazo coincided with the Mexican media's traditional end-of-year stories on politicians' scandalous Christmas bonuses: roughly \$11,000 for each senator.**

**It was later reported that lawmakers and judges also claim gasoline vouchers as part of their benefits packages.**

The link between public officials' generosity to themselves and the increasing prices for government-provided products such as gasoline and electricity is an easy one for everyday Mexicans to make, said Semo.

"To Mexicans, politics represents the best business of your life. They see public positions as a system of accumulating private riches," he said.

Even before the increase in petrol prices was announced, long lines had formed at fuel pumps around the country, due to shortages attributed to theft from pipelines, poor distribution and alleged hoarding by petrol stations.

There are also the perpetual problems in the state-run Pemex Refining, which has lost "12m pesos per hour" over the entirety of the last decade, Juan Pardinás, director of the Mexican Institute for Competitiveness, wrote in the newspaper Reforma.

"At the same time it's increasing petrol prices, the government has not given any public explanation of the measure it will take to stop this monumental waste of public resources."

Addressing the nation last week, Peña Nieto pleaded for understanding. The president argued that subsidies only benefited the rich and reduced available funds for social programs for the poorest Mexicans.

"What would you have done?" he asked, setting off a social media firestorm in which Mexicans used the hashtag #QuéHubieranHechosUstedes to suggest alternative course of action, such as cutting subsidies for political parties – or simply resigning.

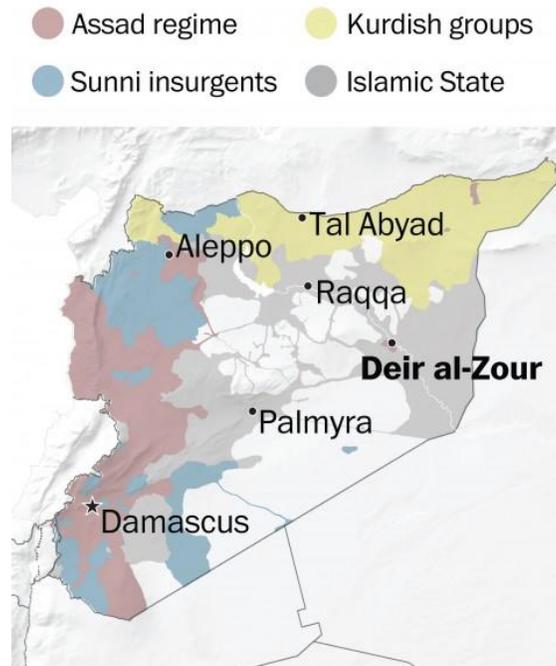
### **YOUR INVITATION:**

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

## **SYRIA WAR REPORTS**

# **U.S. Ground Combat Force Attacks In Syria:**

# “The Raid Took Place Near A Small Town Along The Euphrates River Valley, In The Vicinity Of The City Of Deir Al-Zour”



Source: IHS Jane's Conflict Monitor  
as of Jan 9.

THE WASHINGTON POST

January 9 By Liz Sly and Missy Ryan, Washington Post [Excerpts]

BEIRUT — U.S. Special Operations troops carried out a ground operation in eastern Syria aimed at capturing an Islamic State militant, U.S. officials said Monday.

The raid took place Sunday near a small town along the Euphrates River valley, in the vicinity of the city of Deir al-Zour and deep in the heart of Islamic State territory, according to the officials and Syrian activist groups.

The troops, who landed on helicopters, spent about 90 minutes in the area, then left carrying Islamic State captives and bodies, according to witnesses quoted by the website Deir al-Zour 24, which monitors Islamic State activity in that province.

According to U.S. defense officials in Washington, the U.S. forces intercepted a vehicle carrying an Islamic State militant whom the U.S. military hoped to capture and interrogate. One official, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an operation whose details have not been publicly announced, said that a firefight broke out and the suspect, along with another person in the car, was killed. No Americans were injured.

Col. John Dorrian, spokesman for the U.S., confirmed that the raid had taken place but declined to provide details.

“The Coalition can confirm a U.S. operation in the vicinity of Deir al-Zour on Jan. 8. The U.S. and the entire counter-ISIL Coalition will continue to pursue ISIL leaders wherever they are to ensure the security and stability of the region and our homelands,” he said in an email. ISIL is another name for the Islamic State.

Officials said the operation was conducted by a “small number” of personnel from the Expeditionary Task Force, a team of elite troops based in Iraq that is charged with hunting down Islamic State leaders.

“We’ve done them before and we’ll do them again,” Capt. Jeff Davis, a U.S. military spokesman, said of the task force operation, speaking to reporters at the Pentagon.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that 25 Islamic State members were killed in the operation.

Another activist group, Sound and Picture, said two Islamic State prisoners were freed, but the details could not be independently confirmed.

U.S. officials said those reports overstated the death toll. One official said the suspect and the person accompanying him were the only people killed.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

**Parliament Staff Killed In Kabul  
By Insurgent Bombings:  
Emirati Ambassador And Afghan  
Governor Blown Up In Kandahar;  
“Powerful Blast In Government  
Guesthouse In Kandahar Killed At  
Least Five And Injured The Provincial**

# **Governor And The Emirati Ambassador To Afghanistan” Death Toll From Twin Bombings Near The Parliament In The Capital, Kabul, Has Risen To 38; Dozens Of Staff Wounded**



Security forces remove a damaged bus after Tuesday's blasts near the Afghan parliament in Kabul. CNN

January 10, 2017 RFE/RL's Radio Free Afghanistan & TOLONews.com & by Jason Hanna, Ehsan Popalzai and Joe Sterling, CNN

Afghan officials say the death toll from twin bombings near the parliament building in the capital, Kabul, has risen to 38, with civilians and military personnel among the victims.

**The attack took place at around 4pm on Tuesday as a convoy of parliament staff was leaving the offices in Darulaman Road in PD6. The Kabul blasts targeted a van carrying administrative staffers of the Afghan parliament near the parliament compound and the private American University of Afghanistan.**

**Then a car bomber detonated his explosives in a coordinated attack.**

**The second explosion occurred after security forces had arrived at the scene.**

More than 70 others were wounded in the attack, claimed by the Taliban.

**The January 10 attack in Kabul came just hours ahead of a powerful blast in a government guesthouse in the southern province of Kandahar that killed at least five people and injured some 14 others, including the provincial governor and the Emirati ambassador to Afghanistan.**

**The blast killed five diplomats from the United Arab Emirates.**

**Local government spokesman Samim Khpalwak said the blast hit the compound in the provincial capital, Kandahar, where Governor Hamayoon Azizi was hosting a dinner attended by the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Kabul as well as several Afghan officials and Emirati diplomats.**

**The U.A.E. foreign ministry confirmed the incident, saying in a statement that Ambassador Juma Mohammed Abdullah al-Kaabi and several other Emirati diplomats were injured in "the heinous terrorist attack on the guesthouse." It didn't disclose the number of the U.A.E. diplomats wounded in the attack.**

Abdullah Khodadad, director of press and public relations for the Afghan Embassy in Washington, confirmed the death of diplomat Yama Quraishi. Quraishi was head of Afghanistan's passport section in Washington. He is the nephew of Karzai's wife."

**In Kabul, the initial blast struck about 4 p.m. as employees were leaving a compound of government and legislative offices, said Interior Ministry spokesman Sadiq Sadiqi.**

**A Taliban spokesman said the attack targeted a minibus purportedly carrying Afghan intelligence agency staff.**

The Interior Ministry said at least four police officers were killed in the attack.

**Afghan media reported that a district head, the head of the NDS zone in the PD7, of the National Directorate of Security, Afghanistan's main intelligence agency, was among those killed.**

**Media reports say most of the victims included parliament staff.**

Rahima Jami, a female lawmaker from the western Herat Province, was among the wounded, the Tolo news agency reported.

The wounded were taken to Istiqlal and emergency hospitals. The head of Istiqlal Hospital, near the scene of the bombings, told RFE/RL that more than 60 people have been brought to the hospital for treatment.

U.A.E. combat troops were deployed to Afghanistan after the 2001 U.S.-led invasion that toppled the Taliban administration.

**Also on January 10, at least seven people were killed and six injured by a-bomb attack Helmand province in the south of the country, the provincial chief of police said.**

The attack reportedly occurred in the house of a local tribal elder.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the Helmand attack, but it bore the hallmarks of the Taliban.

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# **Insurgents Blow Up Soldiers’ Restaurant: “The Soldiers Come Here To Have Tea, Food And Chew Khat”**



January 07, 2017 by Harun Maruf, VOA News

Mogadishu

At least three people were killed and 17 others injured by an explosion Saturday at a restaurant in Mogadishu, witnesses and medical officials said.

The restaurant is popular among Somali government soldiers who are stationed at a nearby base.

“The soldiers come here to have tea, food and chew khat,” a witness told VOA Somali.

Khat is a green narcotic stimulant widely chewed in East Africa.

Mogadishu ambulance services told VOA they evacuated two dead bodies and took 17 injured people to the hospital. Mogadishu’s Medina hospital confirmed one fatality.

The explosion occurred just after 7 p.m. local time near Tarabunka area in the Hodan district of the capital.

A witness told VOA that a remote-controlled explosive device planted in the restaurant is believed to be the cause of the explosion. Gunfire has been heard after the explosion.

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

**NOT ANOTHER DAY  
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR  
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The remains of Army Sgt. Douglas Riney, 26, of Fairview, Illinois, killed in Afghanistan, arrive at Dover Airforce Base. Army Times October 20, 2016

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**“Soldiers In Ivory Coast Began  
A Revolt On Friday Demanding  
Higher Salaries And Improved  
Living Conditions”**

**“Within Hours The Mutineers Had Taken Over Nine Cities, And At One Point Trapped The Defence Minister In A House For Hours”**  
**“Soldiers Commandeered The Army Headquarters”**  
**Aside From Better Pay, An Agreement With The President To End The Uprising “Is Reported To Include An Amnesty For The Mutineers”**



08 Jan 2017 Al Jazeera News & BBC

Soldiers in Ivory Coast began a revolt on Friday in Bouake, the country's second largest city, demanding higher salaries and improved living conditions. At one point rebelling soldiers trapped the defence minister in a house for hours.

It spread to the commercial capital, Abidjan, where soldiers commandeered the army headquarters on Saturday.

Within hours the mutineers had taken over nine cities, Man, Daloa, Daoukro, Odiene and Korhogo.

President Alassane Ouattara says a deal has been reached to end the rebellion and has agreed to look at the soldiers' demands.

Monday the rebellion in Ivory Coast over soldiers' pay appears to have passed.

Residents and correspondents in Bouake, described calm on the streets.

A correspondent for AFP news agency in Bouake said on Sunday that there had been no firing there since Saturday evening.

"Traffic has resumed this morning and the shops have reopened."

The mutiny began in Bouake early on Friday with soldiers firing rocket-launchers.

President Alassane Ouattara went on national TV on Saturday night to announce a deal.

"I confirm that I have agreed to take into account the demands of the soldiers over bonuses and better working conditions," he said. At the same time he criticised the rebellion.

Aside from better pay, the agreement is reported to include an amnesty for the mutineers.

Defence Minister Alain-Richard Donwahi - who had gone to Bouake to negotiate with the protesters - was held for two hours there late on Saturday.

The rebels swept into Abidjan from Bouake in 2011, helping Mr Ouattara take power after his predecessor Laurent Gbagbo - now on trial at the International Criminal Court - refused to accept defeat in elections the previous year.

Some of the mutineers were thought to be former rebels who joined the army after the conflict.

**MORE:**

**UPDATE:**  
**Ivory Coast Regime Agrees To Deal With Rebelling Soldiers: “We’ve Reached An Agreement. They Will Pay 5m On Monday And The Rest Each Month,” Sergeant Mamadou Kone, One Of The**

# Mutineers' Negotiators, Told Reuters News Agency"

## "On Friday Evening, Hundreds Of Soldiers Surrounded The Building In Bouake Where Talks Were Taking Place, And Fired Weapons In The Air"



Defence Minister Alain-Richard Donwahi meeting soldiers in Bouake on Friday. Reuters

14 January 2017 BBC News

Shots were heard in the second-largest city, Bouake, late on Friday, and at the army barracks in the commercial capital, Abidjan, sparking fears that negotiations were failing.

The two sides met for hours in Bouake before reaching a deal.

It resolves a pay dispute that sparked a two-day uprising last week.

Last week's mutiny was calmed when the government agreed to the military's demands, but the terms were still in dispute.

A negotiator for the military said the renewed gunfire stemmed from fears that the government was going back on an agreement to pay the soldiers' bonuses.

About 8,000 soldiers were promised 12m CFA francs (\$19,300) each, but none of this money had so far been paid.

"We've reached an agreement. They will pay 5m on Monday and the rest each month," Sergeant Mamadou Kone, one of the mutineers' negotiators, told Reuters news agency.

"We haven't finished up, but that's the most important thing."

Earlier on Friday evening, hundreds of soldiers surrounded the building in Bouake where talks were taking place, and fired weapons in the air.

Defence Minister Alain-Richard Donwahi was inside, having flown back into the city earlier in the day to lead negotiations.

Mr Donwahi was briefly held hostage by the military earlier this week.

President Alassane Ouattara appealed for calm following the mutiny, and dismissed the heads of the army, police and paramilitary gendarmes.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



**“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

**“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

Ask for work. If they do not give you work, ask for bread. If they do not give you work or bread, then take bread.”  
– Emma Goldman

## **“Many Democrats Think That Trump Supporters Voted Against Their Own Economic Interests”**

### **“But He Is Offering A Wall Of Sorts To Protect Voters Against Neo-Liberals Who Consolidate Financial Power, Ship Jobs Abroad And Replace Paychecks With Food Stamps”**

January 12 By Matt Stoller, Washington Post [Excerpt]

Many Democrats think that Trump supporters voted against their own economic interests.

But voters don't want concentrated financial power that deigns to redistribute some cash, along with weak consumer protection laws.

They want jobs. They want to be free to govern themselves.

Trump is not exactly pitching self-government. But he is offering a wall of sorts to protect voters against neo-liberals who consolidate financial power, ship jobs abroad and replace paychecks with food stamps.

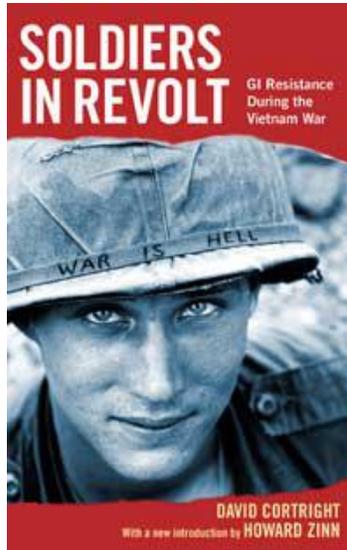
Democrats should have something better to offer working people.

If they did, they could have won in November. In the wreckage of this last administration, they didn't.

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## **Marines Ranks Elect Councils “To Defend Themselves Against**

# Command Reprisals And Continued Racial Abuse”



From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books.

Perhaps the most tragic uprising of recent years took place on July 20, 1969, at Camp Lejeune.

Occurring a few days prior to a scheduled embarkation of the 2nd Marine Division to the Mediterranean, the fighting left fourteen injured and resulted in the death of one white Marine, Corporal Ed Bankston of Picayune, Mississippi.

Arising out of a dispute over discrimination at a base enlisted men's club, the brawl soon turned into a black-versus-white melee near the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, barracks area. Black and Puerto Rican GIs involved, most of them Vietnam veterans, later laid the blame for the incident not on anyone particular act but on the accumulated frustrations of months of command harassment.

Their interpretation was corroborated by the division's "Ad Hoc Committee on Equal Treatment and Opportunity," which had issued its findings months before the July 20 outburst. Obtained by the New York Times several weeks after the riot, the report contained the warning, apparently unheeded, that "an explosive situation of major proportions" existed on post.

Although the committee was composed of seven officers and had been appointed by the base commanding officer, it found that "many white officers and NCOs retain prejudices and deliberately practice them"; the report verified that many off-base facilities were segregated and that black recruits were subjected to excessive harassment from MPs.

The differing responses to the Camp Lejeune riot, by the Marine Corps on the one hand and the black enlisted men on the other, is instructive of the gap separating the two

groups in a supposedly homogeneous military organization, and helps explain why black GIs and white commanders remained at odds -- despite official claims of improved relations.

In a frantic law-and-order crackdown, the Camp Lejeune command installed huge bright lights and armed sentries along troop paths between barracks; three reaction forces were also created -- equipped with tear gas, walkie-talkies, and loaded guns.

Twenty-six Marines involved in the July 20 incident were flown back to the States from the Atlantic cruise for criminal action -- twenty-four black and two Spanish-speaking men, but no whites.

**The blacks, meanwhile, apparently assuming that little if any satisfaction would come from official quarters, set up their own organization, the “Council of Concerned Marines,” to defend themselves against command reprisals and continued racial abuse.**

**Among the Council’s activities were a petition campaign to free those arrested for the riot and an effort to form a network of elected representatives from the black minority within each company.**

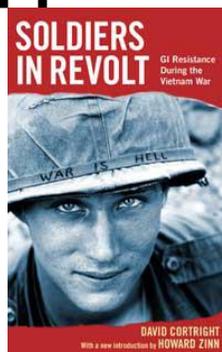
**At the same time, Marines aboard the U.S.S. LaSalle on cruise off the coast of Spain also organized to defend themselves.**

**An organization was formed to work as an independent shore patrol for blacks (as protection from abuse by white MPs) and to press for more black representation in shipboard affairs.**

In the 2nd Marine Division, as in so many military units, a virtual state of war raged between minority servicemen and their white superiors. ‘

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

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## STUCK ON STUPID

### Typical

Comment: T

A classic example of the species of anti-Trump stupidity that makes so many of those opposed to Trump appears to be exactly what they are: delusional raving fools totally out of touch with reality. The same wet brain who wrote this filled his list with comments all fall that there was no way Trump could win the election.

From: E  
Subject: Now, before the Inauguration ...  
Date: Jan 10, 2017

Convicted mass murderer and racist Dylan Roof should be executed before Trump becomes President and pardons him.

Comments welcome,  
E

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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## Tunisian Police Fire Tear Gas At Protesters Demanding Jobs

12.01.17 Reuters

TUNIS -- Tunisian police firing tear gas clashed on Thursday with hundreds of youths who tossed rocks and petrol bombs in protests over jobs and a lack of development in a town in the country's south, residents said.

Six years after their revolt ousted autocrat Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Tunisia's central and southern regions are still flashpoints for rioting in marginalised towns where many young Tunisians see little economic progress since the uprising.

Local residents said police clashed with several hundred young men in the centre of Ben Guerdane, and that protesters lobbed rocks and petrol bombs and set tyres ablaze.

"Police are firing tear gas to try to disperse hundreds of youths who are protesting in the centre of the town demanding work," Fethi Chandoul, a local resident, told Reuters.

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## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

# **Heroic Zionist Soldiers Attack A Palestinian Farmer's Coop: “The Residents In Barta'a Are Living In An Open-Air Prison”**

January 12, 2017 IMEMC News

Several Israeli military vehicles invaded, on Thursday at dawn, Barta'a town, southwest of Jenin in the northern part of the occupied West Bank, and demolished a coop, in addition to handing warrants for the destruction of another coop, and an industrial structure.

Tawfiq Kabaha, a member of the Barta'a Local Council, said several army vehicles invaded the village, isolated behind the Israeli Annexation Wall, and demolished a coop owned by a local farmer, identified as Husam Abdullah Kabaha.

He added that the soldiers handed the Palestinian another demolition order targeting his barn, and informing him he has ten days to remove the animals.

Furthermore, the soldiers handed a demolition order to resident Warrad Ma'rouq, targeting his industrial structure, under the allegation of being built without a permit.

Kabaha stated that Barta'a has been subject to extensive invasions and searches of homes, and suffered many demolitions of homes and property over the last several years, in addition to being isolated by the Annexation Wall, and illegal Israeli colonies.

“The residents in Barta'a are living in an open-air prison,” he added, “They are surrounded by the illegal apartheid wall and colonies, and are subject to constant invasions and violations.”

**In Gaza, Israeli soldiers stationed on military towers across the border fence, near Erez terminal, in the northern part of the besieged coastal region, fired many live rounds at homes and lands, close to the border fence.**

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## **Occupation Regime Punishes Family Members For Acts Of Relatives:**

**“Let This Be Known To All Who  
Are Plotting, Planning Or  
Considering Carrying Out An  
Attack, That Their Families Will  
Pay A Heavy Price For Their  
Actions And The Consequences  
Will Be Severe And Far-Reaching”  
“The Geneva Convention Outlaws  
‘Collective Penalties’ And States That  
No Person ‘May Be Punished For An  
Offense He Or She Has Not  
Personally Committed”  
Palestinians Charged With “Disloyalty”  
To Zionist Occupation Of Palestine**

12 January 2017 by Charlotte Silver, The Electronic Intifada

**After issuing orders to demolish their home and rounding them up in detention centers, Israel now plans to revoke the Jerusalem residency of the relatives of the man who ran a truck into a group of Israeli soldiers at a settlement near Jerusalem on Sunday, killing four and injuring more than a dozen others.**

The Palestinian man, identified as Fadi Ahmad Hamdan al-Qunbar, 28, was shot dead at the scene.

The sweeping order, issued by interior minister Aryeh Deri on Tuesday, is a striking expansion of Israel’s tools of collective punishment against an alleged attacker’s family.

It would strip at least a dozen people of their right to live in their home city of Jerusalem.

The Israeli human rights group HaMoked, which is representing the family, reported that more individuals were notified on 11 January that their residency would be revoked.

“Let this be known to all who are plotting, planning or considering carrying out an attack, that their families will pay a heavy price for their actions and the consequences will be severe and far-reaching,” Deri said.

“This is a decision that signals a new era against terrorism and terrorists who use their status to carry out attacks against citizens,” Deri added. The move is supported by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

## **Illegal**

**Israel occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 1967. I**

**t later annexed the city in violation of international law, a move not recognized by any country.**

Israel treats East Jerusalem’s indigenous Palestinian population as if they were mere “permanent residents” whose ability to stay in the city is contingent on Israeli permission.

In its December resolution, the UN Security Council condemned all of Israel’s measures “aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem.”

It confirmed that such measures, including “the construction and expansion of settlements, transfer of Israeli settlers, confiscation of land, demolition of homes and displacement of Palestinian civilians,” are “in violation of international humanitarian law” and previous resolutions.

**As the occupying power, Israel is also bound by the Fourth Geneva Convention, which outlaws “collective penalties” and states that no person “may be punished for an offense he or she has not personally committed.”**

But since there have been no effective international measures to hold Israel accountable, it has continued to use collective punishment with impunity for decades.

## **Punishing Children**

**Like other forms of collective punishment Israel uses, particularly the punitive demolition of family homes, these measures are reserved for Palestinians; Israel does not use collective punishment against the families of Jews who carry out attacks.**

Some of al-Qunbar’s relatives were summoned Tuesday morning to Israel’s Population and Immigration Authority, where they received a letter that said the family is “suspected of having connections to ISIS,” and members are considered a security risk “as long as they remain in Israel,” according to the Tel Aviv newspaper Haaretz.

Israeli police raided the homes of other relatives, delivering revocation orders.

Al-Qunbar's mother's status is also being revoked supposedly on the basis that she made a false claim 30 years ago when she first received her residency status upon marrying her husband, a Jerusalemite.

Among those who now face becoming stateless are two children in the al-Qunbar family aged 11 and 17.

Other voices in the Israeli government have called on the family to be expelled to Syria or Gaza.

### **“Disloyalty” To An Occupation**

While thousands of Palestinians in Jerusalem have had their residency revoked under various pretexts, the first instance of revocation for “lack of loyalty” didn't occur until 2006, when Israel stripped three elected Palestinian lawmakers and the Palestinian Authority's minister for Jerusalem affairs of their status.

Human rights groups appealed this move to Israel's high court, where a decision is still pending.

But a lack of judicial ruling has not stopped occupation authorities from advancing this new avenue of expelling Palestinians from Jerusalem.

Last January, four men were stripped of their residency before they were convicted of anything.

Three of the men were charged with throwing rocks at passing traffic, allegedly leading to a fatal accident of one driver. The fourth man was accused of committing an attack on a bus in which three Israelis were killed and several others wounded.

**Israel said the revocations were for lack of loyalty to the state. HaMoked is appealing this decision, arguing there is no allegiance implied in Palestinians' permanent residency status.**

Also last January, a bill was introduced in Israel's parliament that would allow the cancellation of permanent residency on grounds of “disloyalty” to Israel.

**At least 13 Palestinians have since had their residency revoked over the last year on the basis of breaching loyalty to the state, according to documentation by Community Action Center at Al-Quds University.**

When the Israeli government first made rumblings of introducing the new grounds for revoking residency, Israeli analyst Zvi Bar'el predicted in Haaretz, “That's how it works when rights are trampled. You start small, get the people used to it, and then you can move on to the mass phase.”

### **Revoking Citizenship**

Meanwhile, human and civil rights group Adalah, based in Haifa in the north of present-day Israel, and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) are petitioning an Israeli court to reject Deri's attempts to revoke the citizenship of Alaa Zayoud, a Palestinian citizen of Israel, who was sentenced to 25 years in prison for attempted murder.

Adalah and ACRI are also demanding Israel annul the 2008 amendment to its Citizenship Law that allows revoking citizenship for "breach of loyalty." To date it has exclusively been used against Palestinian citizens.

"A minister who chooses to employ such moves only against Arab citizens, in an effort to serve his own narrow political interests, drags the court into his discriminatory struggle against Arab citizens and, by doing so, stains the court," Adalah said.

The Israeli high court refused to revoke the citizenship of Israeli Jewish citizen Yigal Amir, who assassinated then-prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995.

In its decision to uphold Amir's citizenship the court stated, "society has expressed its reservation about this brutal murder, but that is no reason to revoke Amir's citizenship, not because of the killer's dignity, but because of the dignity of that right [to citizenship]."

Last February, the government attempted to expand its ability to revoke the citizenship of someone in absentia.

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

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

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

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