

## **Military Resistance 15B5**



“It’s his turn now and then me again . . .”

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Veteran & Military Initiative Organizing Committee, who sent this in.]

**Washington Officials Say  
They’ve Never Seen Anything  
Like The Chaos And Ineptitude  
Of Trump’s White House:  
“The Communications Team Are  
Incoherent, Inconsistent And  
Contradictory To What The  
President Says”**

# **“Media Reports Describe Paranoid Staff Using A Secret Chat App That Erases Messages As Soon As They Are Read”**

## **“Sleeping Just Four Or Five Hours A Night, Trump’s Manic Pace Has Made The World’s Head Spin”**

February 18, 2017 by David Smith, Ben Jacobs / The Guardian. David Smith is the Guardian’s Washington correspondent.

When press officers at the White House glance up from their desks, they are constantly reminded of their boss’s big day. On the wall, in thick dark frames, are photos: Donald Trump taking the oath of office, giving a thumbs up at his inaugural address, bidding farewell to Barack Obama, waving to the crowd during his inaugural parade, dancing with his wife at an inaugural ball.

Walking by last Monday, Trump gestured toward an image of his inauguration crowd—a point that still irks him—and told reporters there would soon be an official statement about the future of his national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

Trouble was, an hour earlier, adviser Kellyanne Conway had appeared on television declaring that the president had “full confidence” in Flynn. Soon after, Trump’s press secretary Sean Spicer read a statement that said “the president is evaluating the situation”.

Six hours later, Flynn was gone.

It was the fastest, most furious week yet for an administration that, like a runaway train, has Washington and America’s elder statesmen shaking their heads, declaring that they have never seen such turmoil or ineptitude.

“Our government continues to be in unbelievable turmoil,” Gen Tony Thomas, head of the military’s special operations command, told a conference last week. “I hope they sort it out soon because we’re a nation at war.”

Some of the malaise can be attributed to the growing pains that plague any new administration. Some is said to be down to the factional struggles, imported to the White House from Trump’s businesses. And much is believed to be on the shoulders of the capricious, egocentric, volatile president, the first in US history to have been elected with no political or military experience.

Yet both Trump and his supporters deny the dysfunction, pointing to executive orders, a supreme court nomination and the scrapping of a Pacific trade deal at breakneck speed.

“Don’t believe the main stream (fake news) media,” Trump tweeted Saturday morning. “The White House is running VERY WELL. I inherited a MESS and am in the process of fixing it.”

Sleeping just four or five hours a night, Trump’s manic pace has made the world’s head spin.

He had an angry phone call with the prime minister of Australia, a Twitter spat that convinced the president of Mexico to cancel a meeting, and consulted the prime minister of Japan about a North Korean missile launch in full view of dinner guests at his Florida country club, Mar-a-Lago. He approved, over dinner, a commando raid in Yemen that resulted in the death of a Navy Seal and an eight-year-old girl.

At home, he was caught on live television making a false claim about his electoral victory, press releases have been littered with spelling mistakes, and the president has fought Twitter battles with everyone from senators to Arnold Schwarzenegger to a department store that dropped his daughter’s products.

Then there were the White House contradictions around the abrupt departure of Flynn, who misled the vice-president over his conversations with the Russian ambassador. Then Trump’s pick for labour secretary, Andrew Puzder, withdrew his nomination after facing questions over his personal background and business record.

Not even in his fourth week, there was the president’s ban on travelers from seven Muslim-majority countries, an order widely denounced and sowing disarray and demonstrations at airports. Trump sacked his acting attorney general for refusing to defend the ban, attacked the courts for pausing it to weigh its lawfulness, and insisted this week that it was “a very smooth rollout”.

“This administration is running like a fine-tuned machine,” he said at a rambling, impromptu press conference.

That characterisation has provoked scorn. “From what I can tell, it’s non-functional,” said Rick Tyler, a political analyst. “It’s not firing on all cylinders, and the timing is off, and the transmission won’t engage.

The executive order, Tyler noted, “created havoc and turmoil. The communications team are incoherent, inconsistent and contradictory to what the president says.”

Bob Shrum, a Democratic consultant and strategist, called the president’s defenses “preposterous”. “It’s like a car where none of the gears work and you’ve no idea if you’re going at 90mph or 30mph and you’re just careening. It doesn’t remotely compare with anything I can think of. There’s never been anything like this.”

The Trump administration has also decided to vet for any criticism of the president during the campaign. On Thursday, a political appointee at the Department of Housing and Urban Development was fired after it was noticed that he had written a critical opinion column about Trump in October.

But operations have also been hampered by competing interests and seething mutual suspicion.

**Media reports describe paranoid staff using a secret chat app that erases messages as soon as they are read.**

Trump's inner circle includes Conway; chief of staff Reince Priebus; senior advisers Jared Kushner, 36, (Trump's son-in-law) and Stephen Miller, 31; and chief strategist Stephen Bannon, the former Goldman Sachs executive who has likened himself to Thomas Cromwell in the court of Henry VIII.

**Senator John McCain, the Republican nominee for president in 2008, told reporters this week that "whole environment is one of dysfunction in the Trump administration".**

**"Who's making the decisions in the White House? Is it the 31-year-old? Is it Mr Bannon? Is it the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff? I don't know."**

The default answer could still be Priebus who, as chief of staff, would traditionally act as gatekeeper to Trump. But his boss is anything but traditional, and Priebus's establishment influence is countered by two ideologues, Bannon and Miller. Bannon, previously head of the rightwing Breitbart News, has been described by Democrats as a white nationalist and is seen by many as the true power behind the throne.

Last week Bannon and Priebus gave a joint media interview to deny rumours of a rift. But Tyler said: "There's no clear chain of command. They can't tell who's in charge.

Were the chief of staff in control, Tyler said, Priebus would have fired Flynn. "If Priebus and Bannon are doing PR to show how well they got on, that shows Priebus is losing. He is the chief of staff, so he shouldn't need to say he's meeting with Bannon, who ought to be a subordinate."

Bannon's allies, meanwhile, continue to rise in prominence. Sebastian Gorka, a deputy assistant and former editor for Breitbart, has become a vocal surrogate in a series of TV and radio interviews, telling the BBC this week that Trump's press conference performance was "fabulous".

Miller, too, earned Trump's praise and widespread scorn for his zealous defense of the president and for peddling a baseless claim about phantom illegal voting. "He says things that would make movie villains blush," Tyler said. "You could not script this stuff."

The problems have been amplified by Senate Democrats doing their utmost to drag out the confirmation process on many of Trump cabinet choices, leaving many executive agencies with few senior staffers.

Trump is not the first president to hit early turbulence, and Bill Galston, a former adviser to Bill Clinton, recalled that "hardly anyone" of the new president's staff in 1993 had been in the White House before.

“That created all sorts of problems. The simple fact of not knowing how the machinery operates is already a huge problem.”

“You need people there who know how overwhelming it is to be in the White House with ‘incoming’ coming at you from all directions,” Galston said. “You need to have a sense of all pieces of the government. It’s not as harmonious as conducting an orchestra. It’s like juggling knives and swords.”

But Galston, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution think tank, acknowledged that the Trump administration is not normal. “I’ve consulted many people in town about analogies and comparisons and nobody can come up with any. Our seismographs are broken.

“We appear to have a president who cannot distinguish chaos from order,” he continued. “There are amateurs doing a job that only professionals can do, and even then often not successfully.”

In contrast, Trump’s allies contend that, for a non-politician learning on the job, he is doing well and playing the media like a fiddle.

**“This can’t just stand,” said Rich Galen, former press secretary to the 44th vice-president, Dan Quayle.**

**“It was kind of fun in the beginning watching the kids run around and bump into each other. Now they’ve got the keys to the car and it’s dangerous. Someone has to go in and get their arms around this.”**

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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**

**There is something in human history like retribution; and it is a rule of historical retribution that its instrument be forged not by the offended, but by the offender himself.**

**-- Karl Marx; Dispatches For The New York Tribune. September 16, 1857**

## **The Past Is Prologue**

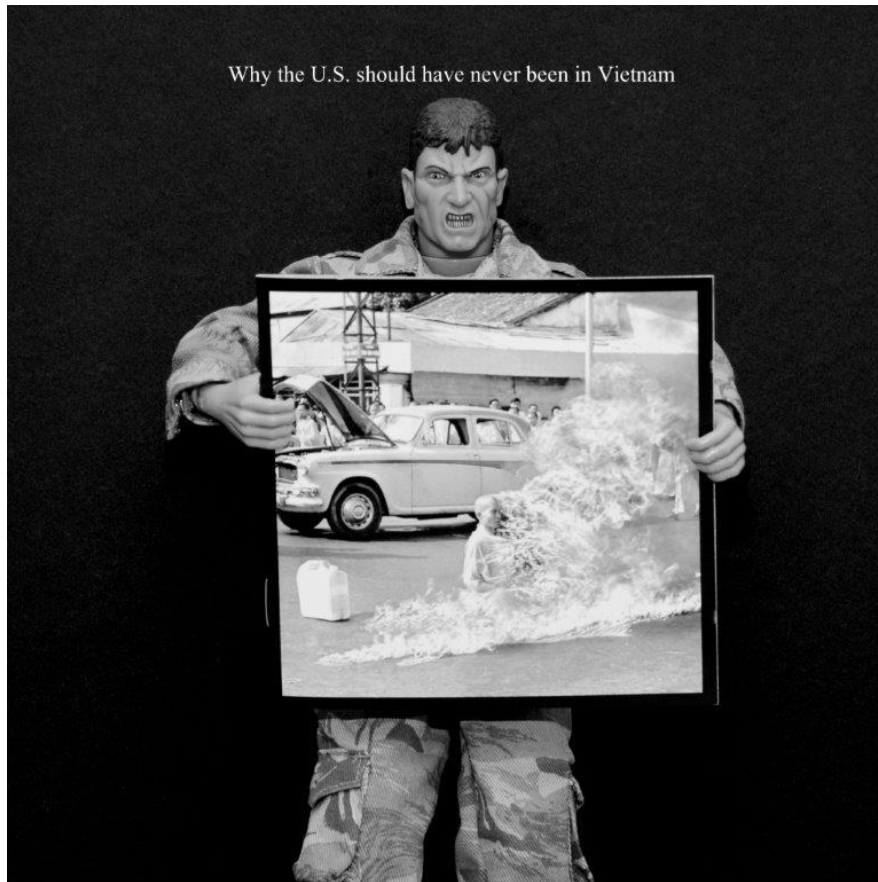


Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017  
Subject: The Past Is Prologue

### The Past Is Prologue

**On June 11, 1963, Quang Duc, a Vietnamese Buddhist monk, set himself on fire with gasoline on a busy street in Saigon, in protest of how the American puppet, President Diem, was persecuting Buddhists who were against his brutal policies. After the photograph of Quang Duc being engulfed in flames was published around the world, President John Kennedy had this to say: "No news picture in history has generated so much emotion around the world as that one." On November 2, 1963, President Diem was assassinated by the South Vietnamese Army with U.S. complicity. On November 22, 1963, President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas with U.S. complicity. By 1973, 58,000 Americans would die in Southeast Asia, and 3.8 million Vietnamese, Cambodians, and Laotians would perish from the face of the Earth.**

**"The truth was obscure, too profound and too pure, to live it you have to explode."  
Bob Dylan**

Resurrecting the truth of "Full Disclosure " is the only thing that keeps high school kids out of funeral homes. Lying is the most powerful weapon in war.

Mike Hastie  
Army Medic Vietnam  
February 14, 2017

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

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

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

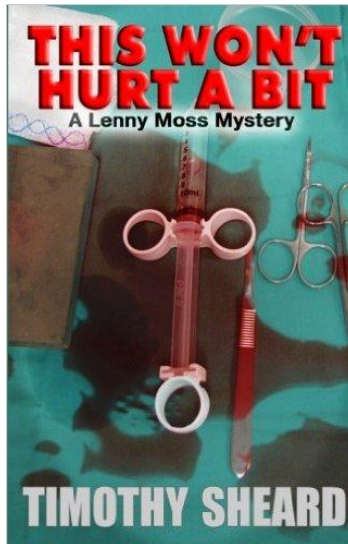
**“We’re On Every Page As Though  
We’ve Written It Ourselves”**

**“From The Book’s First Words We  
Feel And Know The Characters As  
Though We’re Going To Clock In With  
Them Any Minute”**

**“What Separates This From Other Books  
Is - It’s *Us* Being Written About - *Us*, Who  
Bust Our Asses And Brains From 9-5 Or  
4-12 Or Midnight To 8 Or Never-Ending  
Shifts”**

**[Book Review]**





[https://www.amazon.com/This-Wont-Hurt-Bit-mystery/dp/0981451810/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1487525300&sr=1-4&keywords=this+won%27t+hurt+a+bit](https://www.amazon.com/This-Wont-Hurt-Bit-mystery/dp/0981451810/ref=sr_1_4?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1487525300&sr=1-4&keywords=this+won%27t+hurt+a+bit)

**Comment: T**  
**This is a brilliantly written review of a most excellent book!**

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From: Alan Stolzer, Military Initiative  
Sent: Feb 18, 2017  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Subject: Book Review; "This Won't Hurt A Bit" by Timothy Sheard

"THIS WON'T HURT A BIT" by TIMOTHY SHEARD  
A LENNY MOSS MYSTERY  
Hard Ball Press

Review by Alan Stolzer. Military Initiative:

If you've ever earned a living then you need to read this book.

Yes, it's a good murder mystery. Yes, it's a quick read; you'll want to find out whodunit and yes, you can bring it anywhere to devour the quick pages at leisure and forget the crowded bus or whichever line you're waiting on that plagues you at the moment.

But what separates this from other books is - it's Us being written about - Us who bust our asses and brains from 9-5 or 4-12 or midnight to 8 or never-ending shifts populated by barking supervisors and/or alienated co-workers, sullen, energized or all too familiar, haunted by fractured lives and thoughts.

In other words, those of us under the umbrella of that well-known stress affliction called work.

What Sheard does is talk to us who share that background through the intricacies of his plot; call us by name and demand attention to the daily grind we share and the recognizable people, yes people, who share our working lives whether we want them to or not.

The book's fictional setting/hospital, James Madison in Philadelphia, is the background as we travel through each ward, nursing station and doctor's office on the back of our hero, Shop Steward and Custodian, Lenny Moss as he, at first, reluctantly tracks down the murderer of a doctor.

You see, a co-worker (we all recognize him since he's in constant hot water) is wrongly (and for political reasons) accused of the homicide and begs Lenny to solve it thereby taking him off the hook. Other workers agree Lenny is the man for the job since he's been winning grievances against hospital administration for years.

Lenny is a dedicated union man, sacrificial and diligent, a boss-hating, worker-loyal, battle scarred veteran of endless management wars. His main rival and persecution meister, the hospital chief of security, is a leading candidate for fascist of the year.

There aren't any diagrams or illustrations drawn and that's fine since from the book's first words we feel and know the characters as though we're going to clock in with them any minute or at the moment we begin the job or read the book. And, as indicated, it's a good one.

Lenny stumbles into clues and possible suspects while peeling back a corner of the crime that proceeds through sordid maze of whodunit getting him badly beaten up and even fired, all the time organizing friends/co-workers into solving the case while mopping floors and changing bathroom supplies.

He rallies all around him in order to get the bastard who did it. Some are willing, some not, some fearful, some loving but all involved by book's end just as those reading might be had they been working in the same hospital under the same conditions - us again.

Eventually we find the twisted culprit in the final (and extremely well written) pages that are proverbially difficult to put down. As a matter of fact, Lenny almost croaks at the hand of the particular evil that has menaced victims – actual or potential.

All of this happens while the characters exhibit the fruits of native intelligence and knowledge that makes hospitals tick in order to put up with or combat the (witch) doctors who order them and the medicines about.

Those earning less than white-coated martinets and soothsayers organize themselves into a disciplined force that solves crime and frees a brother for the effort. It's lots of fun, believe me.

We see our (the character's) skills put to best use in tracking down the degenerate who dares use us (other characters) as cannon fodder for his/her career-twisted motivation. Sound familiar?

That's right.

We're on every page as though we've written it ourselves. What a pleasure to be taken down a bumpy, fictional road by a shop steward who's more dedicated to us than to a boss.

**YOUR INVITATION:**

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Military Initiative, 459 Columbus Avenue, PMB#282, New York, N.Y. 10024 or email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

**Why Have So Many Left And  
Antiwar Organizations Betrayed  
The Syrian Revolution?**

**“They Looked At It From Above,  
As A Contest Between Various  
States, And Ignored The  
Revolution From Below Entirely”**

**“Our Support Must Go To The  
Revolutionary People Struggling For  
Freedom And Emancipation From  
Below, And Not Authoritarian And  
Capitalist States, Or Any Regional  
And International Imperialists”**

# “Both Sides Of The Imperial And Regional Rivalry Share One Commitment In Common--The Defeat Of The Popular Revolution In Syria And Throughout The Region”

**Assad and the U.S. collaborated during the so-called "war on terror." Turkey and Qatar enjoyed very close relations with Syria's regime before the uprising. And Saudi Arabia was the main foreign investor in the country before 2011.**

February 7, 2017 Joseph Daher interviewed by Ashley Smith, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

*Ashley Smith: What's your explanation for why so many left and antiwar organizations have betrayed the Syrian Revolution?*

Joseph Daher: Some sections of the left and antiwar organizations have analyzed the Syrian revolutionary process only in geopolitical terms. They looked at it from above, as a contest between various states, and ignored the revolution from below entirely.

Of course, imperial and regional powers did intervene in the revolution for their own purposes. On one side, the Western states, Gulf monarchies and Turkey attempted manipulate and use the uprising.

On the other, Iran, Russia and Hezbollah backed Assad to the hilt. Much of the left wrongly considered the latter an "anti-imperialist" bloc. This analysis led some to deny or ignore the revolutionary dynamic.

**The truth, however, is that the Syrian Revolution was not a cat's paw of other powers. It began as a genuine mass movement from below for the overthrow of the regime and for freedom and dignity, just like all the revolts in the Middle East and North Africa.**

Sections of the left that discount the revolution and only see it as a contest between imperialism and so-called anti-imperialism ignore the fact that the major powers allegedly opposed to Assad have also collaborated with him.

**For example, Assad and the U.S. collaborated during the so-called "war on terror." Turkey and Qatar enjoyed very close relations with Syria's regime before the uprising. And Saudi Arabia was the main foreign investor in the country before 2011.**

And after the revolution started, the U.S. was not committed to regime change, but an orderly transition to preserve the regime minus Assad. But the U.S. even abandoned this stance, striking de facto collaboration with Assad against ISIS.

**Both sides of the imperial and regional rivalry share one commitment in common-- the defeat of the popular revolution in Syria and throughout the region.**

The last thing any of them want is radical democracy anywhere in the Middle East.

So many sections of the left dismissed the Syrian Revolution.

That only intensified after the expansion of ISIS and its terrorist attacks in Europe and Turkey. Since then, the right and this section of the "left" agree on the need to preserve Assad's regime and the other dictatorships in the region in order to defeat ISIS.

Ironically, this puts both the right and this section of the "left" in agreement with the Trump administration and American imperialism. So much for the so-called anti-imperialist left's anti-imperialism!

The various imperialist and regional powers' adoption of this so-called realist policy toward Assad in the hopes of getting rid of ISIS will fail. We have to remember that Assad and the other powers fueled the development of ISIS and similar sister organizations.

They emerged as the result of authoritarian regimes crushing popular movements linked to the 2011 uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa. The interventions of regional and international states have contributed to ISIS's development as well.

Finally, neoliberal policies that have impoverished the popular classes, together with the repression of democratic social and trade union forces, have been key in providing ISIS and Islamic fundamentalist forces the space to grow.

The left must understand that only by getting rid of these conditions can we resolve the crisis.

That means we have to side with the democratic and progressive groups on the ground fighting to overthrow authoritarian regimes, defeat the counterrevolutionary Islamic fundamentalists, and replace neoliberalism with a more egalitarian social order in Syria and the region.

But there is a deeper problem on much of the left that predates the Syrian uprising.

**Too many who call themselves socialists looked to states like Stalin's Russia in the past or other similar regimes today as either representatives of a better society, or at least as opponents of American imperialism.**

**That led them to turn a blind eye to those societies' structures of exploitation and oppression. And in the cases of China and Russia today, it leads them to deny the reality of those societies' capitalist and imperialist policies.**

I think what is at stake on the left is how we understand socialism, anti-imperialism and solidarity.

As leftists, I believe our support must go to the revolutionary people struggling for freedom and emancipation from below, and not authoritarian and capitalist states, or any regional and international imperialists.

Only through their own collective action can workers and oppressed people achieve their goals.

This concept, which is at the heart of revolutionary politics, tragically faces profound skepticism on some sections of the left.

This is the real problem, and it must be overcome by a new generation of socialists.

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**“How Will Members Of The Armed Forces Know That The Revolutionary Movement Is So Determined To Win That It Makes Sense To Refuse Orders To Attack It And Instead To Defend It?”**

**“The More The Soldiers Are Convinced That The Rebels Are Really Rebelling, The More Willing They Are To Turn Aside Their Bayonets, Or Go Over With Them To The People”**

[Excerpt from: The History of the Russian Revolution By Leon Trotsky, Volume One: The Overthrow of Tzarism: February 23-27, 1917]

**“THE LEADERS OF THE WORKERS FUMED, LOOKED FOR FIREARMS, DEMANDED THEM FROM THE PARTY.  
“AND THE ANSWER WAS: THE SOLDIERS HAVE THE FIREARMS, GO GET THEM”**

The Vyborg section [revolutionaries] staged a meeting near the barracks of the Moscow regiment. The enterprise proved a failure.

Is it difficult for some officer or sergeant major to work the handle of a machine gun? The workers were scattered by cruel fire.

A similar attempt was made at the barracks of Reserve regiment. And there too: officers with machine gun interfered between the workers and soldiers.

The leaders of the workers fumed, looked for firearms, demanded them from the party.

And the answer was: “The soldiers have the firearms, go get them.”

Either the machine gun will wipe out the insurrection, or the insurrection will capture the machine gun.

But out of this complicated web of material and psychic forces one conclusion emerges with irrefutable clarity: the more the soldiers in their mass are convinced that the rebels are really rebelling – that this is not a demonstration after which they will have to go back to the barracks and report, that this is a struggle to the death, that the people may win if they join them, and that this winning will not only guarantee impunity, but alleviate the lot of all – the more they realize this, the more willing they are to turn aside their bayonets, or go over with them to the people.

In other words, the revolutionaries can create a break in the soldiers’ mood only if they themselves are actually ready to seize the victory at any price whatever, even the price of blood.

And the highest determination never can, or will, remain unarmed.

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**“While The Mainstream Of The  
US Capitalist Class Sees  
Russian Capitalism As Its Rival,  
Trump Sees Them As A  
Business Opportunity”**

**“Mainstream US Big Business –  
Has Partially Lost Control Over  
Their President”**

# **“This Is Unprecedented In US, And Therefor In World History” “The Crisis Of Capitalism; The Fact That It Cannot Develop Society Any Longer”**

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The capitalists themselves hardly believe in their own system anymore, which is why they are increasingly just looking out for themselves at the expense of the system as a whole – a trend that Trump reflects to the nth degree.

Overall, the summation of the situation that Leon Trotsky gave almost 100 years ago fits today perfectly. “History says to the working class, ‘you must know that unless you cast down the bourgeoisie (the capitalist class) you will be crushed in the ruins of the capitalist civilization. Try. Solve this task!’”

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February 19, 2017 by John Reimann, North Star editorial board member; North Star

The media is beside itself. Even Fox News is ripping Trump.

That’s because their backers – mainstream US big business – has partially lost control over their president. This is unprecedented in US, and therefor in world history. How did this happen? What does it mean for the future?

To start, let’s take a look at the facts related to the whole “Russia” scandal. The facts reveal, once again, the fact of the most corrupt president in US history. Here are the main characters in this plot:

## **Carter Page**

Carter Page was formerly a top foreign policy advisor for Trump when he ran for president. An ex-Marine (another one!), Page was an investment banker for Merrill Lynch. then he founded his own investment fund, Global Energy Capital, which partnered with former (Russian state gas company) Gazprom executive Sergei Yatsenko. Page has long expressed support for Putin. “Business Insider” reported (1/27/17) that Page was offered the brokerage fee for sale of a 19% stake of Rosneft (the Russian state oil company) back last July when he was in Moscow giving a speech if he could convince Trump to lift sanctions on Russia.

That 19% stake was sold to a Qatar fund in December (i.e., after Trump was elected). The deal was financed by Gazprombank (the bank for Gazprom), of which Page was a member of the board of directors. Page was in Russia one day after the sale was finalized.



He has consistently criticized the US sanctions against Russia, a position parroted by Trump. He had to abruptly resign from the Trump campaign when his visits to Russia were revealed.

### **Paul Manafort**

Paul Manafort was brought onto the Trump electoral campaign as an insider expert to corral delegate votes. A long time lobbyist, he has represented such savory characters as Jonas Savimbi (who represented apartheid South Africa in Angola), Ferdinand Marcos, and Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire. In the 1990s, he represented the Pakistani equivalent of the CIA, which has long been considered to be linked with right-wing Islamic terrorism. More recently, he represented the Putin-backed Victor Yanukovich in Ukraine.

As such, he was in effect representing the Putin regime. On the side, he also was involved with Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska and Ukrainian investor Dmytro Firtash. He, too, resigned in a hurry from Trump's campaign after it was revealed that he'd received millions from Yanukovich's party.

### **Michael Flynn**

The hit of the party, of course, is Michael Flynn. This anti-Muslim bigot and loose cannon was criticized before for his links with Putin's state TV channel "RT", including a paid appearance at an RT gala in 2015. In December, before Trump even took office – *but right around the time that the Rosneft 19% sale was finalized* – Flynn had a series of phone calls with Russian ambassador to the US, Sergey Kislyak.

Initially, he denied he'd discussed the US sanctions, but then it was proven that he had. Meanwhile, Vice President Pence went on TV to also deny that Flynn had discussed that issue. Did Flynn lie to Pence about that (as they both claim), or is he taking one for the team? We'll probably never know.



Mike Flynn (with hand to ear) appearing at the RT gala in Moscow with Putin. (At lower right is Green Party's Jill Stein)

## **Stephen Bannon**

100 years ago, Russia's simpleton Tsar Nicholas represented the complete degeneration of the Russian aristocracy.

He was guided by a crazed mystic named Rasputin.

Today, Trump has his Rasputin: Stephen Bannon.

Whereas many others are simply guided by personal financial self-interest, Bannon actually has a vision – the return of “Western Judeo-Christian civilization.” He sees Putin’s regime as a useful although temporary ally in dealing with the supposed main enemy, which is an expanding Islamic caliphate. (See, for example, his comments at the 2014 Vatican conference.)

But all of this leads us back to one man:

## **Donald Trump**

The New York Times (2/14/2017) reports that Trump was informed of Flynn’s conversations back at the end of January. However, he did nothing. What has been his connection with Russian capitalism?

He does not have direct investments in Russia (no “Trump Towers” there), but he’s got very close links in another way: Russian capitalists are major investors in his company in the US.

“President-elect Donald Trump’s controversial soft spot for Russia is based on decades of courting wealthy Russians to buy condos in his luxury high-rises and invest in his other real estate ventures.... After several bankruptcies made it hard to raise money in the United States for his high-end hotel and condominium projects since the 1990s, Trump, and later his children, traveled to Moscow to talk deals and attract buyers” (USA today, 12/15/2016)

This same article cites 65 units in Trump World Tower in NY that have been bought by Russian investors, for example. It also explains that other Russian investors have paid Trump royalties for properties in Florida for use of the Trump brand name. In fact, according to this same article, this became a great business model for Trump: License his brand name to Russian (and other investors), have them do all the investing, and harvest a royalty, risk free.

“Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of a lot of our assets; say in Dubai, and certainly with our project in SoHo and anywhere in New York,” Trump Jr. said at the time (2008).

“We see a lot of money pouring in from Russia. There’s indeed a lot of money coming for new-builds and resale reflecting a trend in the Russian economy and, of course, the weak dollar versus the ruble,” says that same USA today article.

Then there is the comment of Aras Agalarov, who partnered with Trump to hold the Miss Universe contest in Russia in 2013: “He (Trump) says that if he becomes president of

the United States he will certainly keep in mind that he has friends in Russia.” (USA today, 12/15/2016)

### **Russian Stock Market & Trump's Taxes**

After Trump won the election, the Russian stock market started to take off. As the Financial Times reported on Jan. 4: “In January, the Micex index of Russian stocks hit an all-time high. Colin Croft, manager of the Jupiter Emerging European Opportunities fund, who increased his allocation to Russia to 58 per cent, up from 45 per cent 18 months ago, says: There is a strong investment case for Russia. Donald Trump is the most pro-Russian US president in a long time, raising the chances sanctions (imposed in 2014) will be lifted, a great boost for sentiment.”

While Trump has no direct investments in Russia, we have to wonder whether he owns Russian stocks. If he were to reveal his tax returns, we would know.

### **Conclusions**

In other words, while the mainstream of the US capitalist class sees Russian capitalism as its rival, Trump sees them as a business opportunity. (This coincides with the view of his Rasputin – Bannon – who has his own agenda as we explained.)

**Under normal circumstances, the tops of the US capitalist class would have means of bringing a president into line.**

**When they determined that Nixon must go, for example, they mobilized their media against him and drove his approval ratings down to 25%. While low by historical standards, Trump's approval ratings still stand at about 40%, and most of that is strongly felt. That's because, when he attacks the media as he did in his press conference of Feb. 16 (“The public doesn't believe you people anymore”) he strikes a chord with millions of people.**

Then there is congress.

On the one hand, the fact that so many congress members are purely looking out for their own personal interests has a huge impact, given that most of them are Republicans, and they largely depend on their president for favors. On the other hand, whatever ability to control the president through congress is limited by the fact that they, too, have extremely low approval ratings. Realclearpolitics puts their approval rating at about 20%!

**These poll numbers reflect the crisis of capitalism, the fact that it cannot develop society any longer.**

**It is destroying the lives of millions all around the planet and destroying the planet itself, while it threatens a new world war.**

**The capitalists themselves hardly believe in their own system anymore, which is why they are increasingly just looking out for themselves at the expense of the system as a whole – a trend that Trump reflects to the nth degree.**

Some celebrate the fact that Trump is partly out of control, and certainly the fact that the enemies of the working class are fighting among themselves is positive.

But this is also an extremely dangerous moment, especially because the US working class hardly exists as a coherent political force. Maybe Trump will be brought into line (although there is no indication so far that he will). Maybe Corporate America will drive him out of office, in which case Trump's supporters will be infuriated and driven to even greater extremes.

But overall, the summation of the situation that Leon Trotsky gave almost 100 years ago fits today perfectly.

He wrote: "History says to the working class, 'you must know that unless you cast down the bourgeoisie (the capitalist class) you will be crushed in the ruins of the capitalist civilization. Try. Solve this task!'"

## **Military Resistance In PDF Format?**

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org)

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **February 19, 1942: "A Day Which Will Live In Infamy" The First U.S. Concentration Camps**



oberlinlibstaff.com



San Francisco Chronicle February 27, 1942. Photo by Dorothea Lange



Japanese-American child on bus to concentration camp. photo: Dorothea Lange

Carl Bunin Peace & Justice history February 13-19

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, ten weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, issued a directive ordering all Japanese Americans (Nisei) evacuated from the West Coast of the U.S., and forcing them to live in concentration camps. Executive Order 9066 authorized the Secretary of War and military commanders "to prescribe military areas . . . from which any or all persons may be excluded."

There was strong support from California Attorney General Earl Warren (later U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice), liberal journalist Walter Lippmann and Time magazine—which referred to California as "Japan's Sudetenland"

**112,000 citizens of Japanese ancestry were relocated, losing their businesses, homes, and belongings to the white residents of their former neighborhoods.**

Note: In the entire course of the war, 10 people were convicted of spying for Japan, all of whom were Caucasian

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS

### UN DÍA SIN INMIGRANTE UNÁMONOS TODOS

INDOCUMENTADOS, RESIDENTES, CIUDADANOS,  
INMIGRANTES DE TODO EL MUNDO

NO IR A TRABAJAR  
NO ABRIR NUESTROS NEGOCIOS  
NO COMPRAS EN TIENDAS O POR INTERNET  
NO COMER EN RESTAURANTES  
NO COMPRAR GASOLINA  
NO IR A CLASES  
NO MANDAR NUESTROS HIJOS A LA ESCUELA

JUEVES  
16 FEBRERO  
2017

*“SEÑOR PRESIDENTE, SIN NOSOTROS Y SIN  
NUESTRO APORTE ESTE PAÍS SE PARALIZA”*

**CORRE LA VOZ**

PREPARÉMONOS PARA NO SALIR  
PERDEREMOS UN DÍA DE TRABAJO  
PERO PODRIAMOS GANAR MUCHO MAS.

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## **Kenyan Doctors’ Strike: “The Health Crisis Is A Class Struggle”**

**“The Strike Is About A Public Health  
System Crumbling Under Deliberate  
State Neglect And Corruption”**

**“We Can No Longer Stand By And Watch  
As Up To A Third Of The Kenyan Budget**



# Is Lost To Corruption, And Disappears Into The Pockets Of A Select Few”



Credits: LABAN WALLOGA

Feb 16, 2017 by Sungu Oyoo, PAMBAZUKA NEWS, Sungu Oyoo is an organiser with the movement Kenyans for Tax Justice. Twitter: @Sungu\_Oyoo

**The doctors' strike now in its third month in Kenya has caused great suffering to the majority poor people who cannot afford medical care in private hospitals.**

**All Kenyans ought to come out and support the doctors.**

**The strike is not merely about the welfare of the healthcare workers. It is about a public health system crumbling under deliberate state neglect and corruption.**

Kenyan doctors have been on strike for over two months now. They have made several demands including: better remuneration, availability of more doctors in public hospitals, better equipment and availability of drugs in these facilities, and more allocation of funds to health research.

They are, in essence, demanding for better healthcare for all citizens of the Kenyan state.

The doctors' demands have been spurned by government, and the media to some extent, in what is part of a wider effort to portray the doctors as individuals who are greedy beyond imagination.

The negotiation process has been long and tortuous, with the government side not keen on implementing a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) it signed with the doctors in 2013.

Private healthcare providers on the other hand stealthily lie like vultures – waiting for the public healthcare system to implode so they can expand their 'investments' in Kenya, a

country that's been described as 'a lucrative market for private healthcare service provision'. One can almost imagine that this is part of a wider scheme to privatize the Kenyan healthcare system, a move which would drive the cost of treatment beyond reach of the majority.

**On the 13 February 2017, the labour court sentenced officials of the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Union (KMPDU) to a month in jail for refusing to call off their strike. For standing up for the truth. For refusing to bow down to a local colonialist class.**

They were released two days later after the Court of Appeal ruled that they should resume negotiations.

The wheeler-dealers and fat cats who recently stole billions of Kenya shillings through the Ministry of Health's bungled procurement of mobile clinics are, meanwhile, sitting pretty and enjoying their freedom.

The state is using the police force to intimidate striking doctors - notwithstanding the fact that the police are also victims of an inefficient public healthcare system. Kenyans are busy lamenting on social media, but taking no real action to demand for better healthcare.

The current health crisis would long have been solved if it had a procurement angle to it, and it presented an opportunity for wheeler-dealers to get their cut from a dysfunctional government procurement system that they are able to easily manipulate.

It would have long been solved if it was our politicians demanding for higher pay - like in 2013 when they arm-twisted the Salaries and Remuneration Commission into awarding them higher perks.

But there is no urgency in solving this crisis because it's only a crisis for the hoi polloi, whose lives are considered expendable.

The health crisis is a class struggle

In his book Facing Mt. Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta writes, "When the missionaries arrived, the Afrikans had the land and the missionaries had the bible. They taught us how to pray with our eyes closed. When we opened our eyes, they had the land and we had the bible."

There was an almost similar occurrence in 1963 when Kenya attained her 'independence'. We were given a flag, but got no real social, political and economic independence. By the time we were done celebrating this 'independence', a local proxy black elite had control of the land and resources, and we had nothing.

This is a country with millions of disenfranchised citizens: a youthful population with very limited access to opportunities for self-advancement, women oppressed beyond comprehension, and activists intimidated into submission. This is not what the country the Mau Mau fought to liberate from the colonialists.

The current Kenyan state operates on a philosophy of beg, borrow, and steal.



This involves unsustainable borrowing, followed by a swift action-plan of wanton plunder of public resources. It's high time the government made an admission: that it has failed in its mandate as stipulated under Article 43(1) of the Constitution of Kenya (2010), which guarantees all Kenyans access to the highest attainable standard of health - which includes the right to health care services, including reproductive health care. Access to healthcare means there must be a solution to the perennial issue of understaffed healthcare facilities, having well remunerated and motivated doctors, and an adequate supply of equipment and drugs in our public healthcare facilities.

A section of our political class has been terming the doctors' demands as unrealistic and motivated by greed. But this political class has no moral authority to claim our doctors are greedy, for Kenyan Members of Parliament are among the highest paid legislators in the world. T

heir lavish lifestyles are supported by an overtaxed citizenry. The doctors are asking for what is rightfully theirs, and ours: a share of our taxes.

Kenya was ranked 145 out of 176 in Transparency International's corruption perception index in 2016.

We can no longer stand by and watch as up to a third of the Kenyan budget is lost to corruption, and disappears into the pockets of a select few.

We can no longer stand by and watch the state audaciously claim it cannot pay our doctors. We just cannot afford to be spectators in such a matter of life and death.

Kenya is a country where poverty and suffering have been normalised, if not romanticized. As Bob Marley says, "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time."

With each passing day, we have more and more people awakening to the structural issues confining them to the dungeons of poverty. But there still exists a greater need to draw awareness to the fact that the current health crisis is a class struggle. That trade unions, like the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Union, are at the frontlines of this struggle, and that their current efforts will greatly advance the struggle for justice and equality in Kenyan society.

Human and societal existence is cyclic in nature. There might sometimes exist long periods in this cycle when no change happens. But the good thing about change is that it's an inevitable eventuality, as no society is static. The millions of disenfranchised and disillusioned youth must speak truth to power, and demand for a dignified existence.

Injustice calls for resistance. To the youth of this country, history will judge you harshly if you stand by and watch as Kenya is raped and plundered. This is a call to the young people of this country.

This is a call to resistance – resistance against inequality; resistance against oppression; resistance against capitalism. Get off your computers and do something for your country. We deserve better. Kenya deserves better. Future generations surely deserve something better than this.

To our doctors, revolutionary salute!

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## DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



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## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Palestinian Teen Dies In Gaza After  
Zionists Deny Him Access To  
Hospital:**

**“The Teen Refused To Serve As A  
Collaborator For The Israeli Authorities,  
A Coercive Measure Regularly Employed**

# On Palestinian Patients In Need Of Permits”

2.7.2017 Ma'an

BETHLEHEM -- A 17-year-old Palestinian died last week after Israeli authorities refused to allow him to leave the besieged Gaza Strip to undergo treatment for a congenital heart defect, the Gaza-based al-Mezan Center for Human Rights said in a report on Sunday.

**Israeli authorities had denied Ahmad Hassan Shubeir from Gaza City, permission to cross into Israel to receive life-saving medical treatment from a hospital after the teen “refused to serve as a collaborator for the Israeli authorities, a coercive measure regularly employed on Palestinian patients in need of permits,” according to the center.**

After being repeatedly denied permission by Israel to cross, despite securing a number of appointments at Israeli hospitals as his health declined, Ahmad died at approximately 4 a.m. on Jan. 14.

Ahmad's father told al-Mezan that his son had been suffering from a congenital heart defect since birth. The father said that he accompanied Ahmad several times to Israeli hospitals, including Tel Hashomer Hospital, Schneider Children's Medical Center, as well as al-Makassed Hospital in the occupied West Bank, and that Ahmad's condition remained relatively stable throughout the treatment.

After Ahmad fell into a critical condition, his family applied for a crossing permit in February 2016 with supporting medical documents attached.

According to the report, Israeli authorities responded to the request by attempted to blackmail and coerce Ahmad's mother into cooperating with the authorities in exchange for her child's permit during an interview at the Erez crossing.

Though she refused, authorities ultimately allowed her and Ahmad to pass after being held several hours.

A subsequent permit request in September received no reply from authorities, and after the family obtained a new hospital appointment, the applied again in October, again without reply.

In November, Israeli authorities replied to another permit application with a refusal.

**“The Israeli security services then summoned Ahmad for an interview at the crossing; during the interrogation, he was pressured to serve as a collaborator for the Israeli authorities in exchange for his permit. The child refused and was denied a permit,” al-Mezan's report continued.**

Finally, the family again obtained an appointment at a hospital for Jan. 30, 2017, as Ahmad's health continued to decline. He died two weeks before the appointment.

“Al-Mezan strongly condemns Israel’s ill-treatment of Palestinian patients of Gaza and expresses remorse at the death of Ahmad Shubeir,” they wrote in their report.

The group warned of the continued “abuse” of critically ill Palestinian patients sealed inside the enclave, where health care services are crippled due to Israel’s ongoing blockade of the small territory that will enter its tenth year this coming June.

“The denial of adequate medical care, which amounts to ill-treatment, is in violation of treaty and customary international law, and amounts to a prohibited collective punishment,” al-Mezan stressed, noting that the Israeli hospitals Palestinians are attempting to reach are in close proximity to Gaza.

According to the center, 2016 represented a steep decrease in the number of permits granted to Palestinian patients wishing to pass through the Erez crossing: In 2015, 77.66 percent of patients were granted access, whereas 61 percent were granted in 2016.

Israeli authorities have also expanded the age group of those subjected to increased security checks from 16 to 35 years old to 16 to 55 years old, “which subsequently expanded waiting times and resulted in increased rejection of permits.”

**Between 50 and 60 percent of the patients who were refused permits in 2016 by Israeli authorities were people with cancer, with al-Mezan noting a trend that developed over the year, “whereby cancer patients were granted up to three permits, but not more, resulting in unfinished cancer treatment, and greatly diminished effectiveness of cancer care.”**

**Furthermore, Palestinians who were finally granted permits were nevertheless subjected to measures that al-Mezan said amounted to “cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment,” including long-waiting periods, intense interrogations, invasive searches, blackmail, and coercion, all of which that were greatly strenuous for the sick patients who were not given sufficient rest amid the procedures.**

The center further noted that obtaining a permit did not even guarantee a successful crossing for Gazans, reporting that Israeli forces arrested at least nine patients in addition to five Palestinians accompanying patients at the Erez crossing in 2015 and 2016.

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## **Occupiers Cut Down 700 Palestinian Olive, Almond Trees: “Israeli Settlers Chopped Down All The Trees They Planted In 2007”**

Feb. 7, 2017 Ma’an

NABLUS -- Palestinian residents of the Nablus-area village of Burqa went to check on their farmlands on the outskirts of the village Monday to find some 700 olive and almond trees cut down, by Israeli settlers from a nearby illegal settlement.

Ghassan Daghlas, an official who monitors settlement related activities in the northern West Bank, told Ma'an that the trees, which belonged to Khalid Salah, Mahmoud Daghlas, and Khalid Nasser, were planted nine years ago in the al-Qubeibat and al-Qusour areas east of Burqa.

The trees, added Daghlas, were planted two years after the eviction of the nearby Homesh settlement which was located in northwest Nablus. He explained to Ma'an that after the eviction, the Palestinian landowners obtained decisions from Israeli courts, including the Supreme Court, that neither settlers, nor Israeli forces would harass the landowners.

However, he said, in 2016 settlers started to "camp" in the area under protection of Israeli troops, making it very difficult for farmers to tend their fields and water their trees.

One of the landowners, Khalid Salah, managed to reach his field on Monday and notified other farmers, as well as Daghlas, that Israeli settlers had chopped down all the trees they planted in 2007.

Daghlas added that Burqa villagers would organize a protest in the fields on Friday.

When asked if there were photos of the cut-down trees, Daghlas said the presence of Israeli troops and settlers made it difficult for farmers to reach the fields and take photos.

An Israeli spokesperson for COGAT, the agency responsible for implementing Israeli government policies in the occupied territory, was not immediately available for comment on the incident.

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**Palestinian Shot Down By  
Zionist Occupation Filth On  
Way To Chemotherapy Is Dead:  
Jallad Was “Attempting To Cross  
The Road In Huwwara Before  
Being Shot At By An Israeli Soldier**

**Who Then Took Out A Knife And  
Threw It Next To The Youth”  
“A Palestinian Ambulance Crew  
Attempted To Evacuate Jallad, But  
Israeli Forces Prevented Them From  
Doing So”  
“His Family Were Kept In The Dark About  
His Condition And Were Prevented From  
Seeing Him”**



Muhammad Amar Jallad

February 18, 2017 by Maureen Clare Murphy, The Electronic Intifada

Muhammad Amar Jallad was being treated for Hodgkin’s lymphoma, his family told Haaretz reporter Gideon Levy. Jallad was reported to have died in an Israeli hospital where he was being treated for his injuries last week.

The Israeli army claimed that Jallad was attempting to attack soldiers with a screwdriver when he was shot in the northern West Bank village of Huwwara on 9 November.

A witness told the Ma’an News Agency that he saw Jallad “attempting to cross the road in Huwwara before being shot at by an Israeli soldier who then took out a knife and threw it next to the youth.”

Jallad's father told Haaretz that his son had set out from their home in Tulkarem that morning for the nearby city of Nablus, where he was being treated at the An-Najah National University Hospital.

When Jallad realized he had mistakenly boarded a shared taxi heading to Ramallah, rather than Nablus, Levy reported, "The driver suggested that he get off at Huwwara junction, next to the checkpoint of that name, where he would be able to pick up the taxi to Nablus."

Jallad exited the vehicle and began to cross the road.

"He did so on the run," according to Levy. "On the other side was an (Israeli army) jeep and a few soldiers, who were guarding the busy junction. The soldiers apparently thought that he was out to attack them."

Jallad was shot with one bullet to the stomach as he reached the middle of the road, Haaretz recounted.

A Palestinian ambulance crew happened to drive by and attempted to evacuate Jallad, but Israeli forces prevented them from doing so.

He was eventually evacuated in an Israeli ambulance and taken to a hospital.

**During the months of hospitalization before his death, Jallad was put under the custody of an Israeli military court.**

**His family were kept in the dark about his condition and were prevented from seeing him.**

Jallad's father was denied a permit to enter Israel and though his mother was issued a permit on four occasions, only once was she allowed to enter her son's hospital room.

The family looked up one of his doctors online and called him last Friday. It was only then that Jallad's family learned that he had died, they told Haaretz. They still have not been informed of the date and cause of his death.

Israel transferred Jallad's body to his family on 17 February. The Ma'an News Agency reported that his body will be examined in the presence of Palestinian legal officials before being buried on Saturday.

**Israel has withheld the remains of dozens of Palestinians slain during alleged and actual attacks since late 2015.**

Earlier this month, Israel transferred the body of Muhammad Zeidan, a 16-year-old who was shot and killed by a private security guard at a Jerusalem-area checkpoint in late November.

**The health of a Palestinian child with leukemia who is being held in an Israeli military detention center has "seriously deteriorated," a lawyer with the Palestinian Authority committee on prisoners' affairs stated this week.**

Ahmad al-Khadour, 15, has “suffered from a stroke, feet problems, intense dizziness, and muscle contractions in his fingers,” Luay Ukka told media.

**The boy has been detained since 2 January, when he was assaulted by Israeli forces who beat him with the butts of their rifles, Ukka said.**

The Jerusalem Committee for the Families of Prisoners also reported that the Israel Prison Service had transferred Azmi al-Daqaq, 28, to a hospital after his health deteriorated.

Al-Daqaq is being held without charge or trial under military detention order after he was detained on 20 January “over an alleged stabbing attempt,” the Ma’an News Agency reported.

Palestinians have frequently accused Israel of medical neglect of prisoners. Last September, a prisoner died from a heart condition after reportedly receiving inadequate treatment in prison.

In December, the Palestinian Prisoners’ Center for Studies released a report claiming that 32 Palestinian prisoners are not receiving adequate medical care for their different conditions.

Some 6,500 Palestinians were imprisoned by Israel as of January.

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

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and  
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

**The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”**

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**





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