

Military Resistance 15B6

**A Revolutionary Anthem For
Revolutionary Times
[Soldiers For The Cause]
The First Of Arkansas Volunteer Infantry
Regiment (African Descent) Marching
Song 1864:
All Honor To Their Memory**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwSZgLLqPy8>

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Taliban Overruns Afghan District:
“Soldiers And Police Were Forced To
Flee After Setting Fire To The District
Administration Center And Police
HQ, Mujahideen Immediately Got
Control Of The Region”**

**“The Taliban Claimed To Ambush A
Military Convoy That Was Dispatched
From The Nearby District Of Spin Boldak
And Destroyed Two Armored Vehicles”**

February 21, 2017 By Bill Roggio, Long War Journal [Excerpts]. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of FDD's

The Taliban claimed it "completely liberated" the district center for Shorabak in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar earlier today. Shorabak was the site of a massive al Qaeda training camp that was assaulted and destroyed by US forces in Oct. 2015.

The Taliban now claims to control four of Kandahar's 18 districts, and that others remain contested.

According to a statement released on Voice of Jihad, the Taliban's official propaganda outlet, Taliban forces torched the administration buildings and police headquarters after local police and Afghan soldiers abandoned the Shorabak district center.

"The Enemy soldiers and police were forced to flee after setting fire to the said district administration center and police HQ, Mujahideen immediately got control of the region," the Taliban stated.

Additionally, the Taliban claimed to ambush a military convoy that was dispatched from the nearby district of Spin Boldak and destroyed two armored vehicles.

The Taliban's claim cannot be independently verified in the Afghan press or FDD's Long War Journal, but the district has been hotly contested and overrun by the Taliban in the past.

Additionally, past Taliban claims of overrunning district centers have been proven to be accurate; these claims have later been confirmed in the Afghan press.

Shorabak had previously fallen to the Taliban in Oct. 2016, but Afghan forces later pushed the jihadist troops to the outskirts of the district center. Taliban fighters have laid siege to the district center since that time. As recently as Feb. 4, Moulavi Rahimullah, the Taliban's military commander for the southern provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Daikundi, said that his forces had the district center surrounded.

The security situation in Afghanistan mirrors that of Kandahar: a significant percentage of the country's 407 districts are controlled or contested by the Taliban.

FDD's Long War Journal has identified 43 Afghan districts under Taliban control, and another 56 that are heavily contested.

The number of Taliban controlled and influenced/contested districts has risen from 70 in Oct. 2015 to 99 this month.

While Shorabak is in a remote corner of southeastern Afghanistan, its location is strategically significant. It is far from the Afghan government and military's reach.

**Afghan Reconstruction
Watchdog SIGAR Publishes
'Gallery Of Greed' Over Fraud:
"Cost Includes \$8.5 Billion Spent
On Counternarcotics, Even
Though Opium Poppy Is At An All-
Time High"
"A Bleak Picture On Security"
"Afghan Government Now Controlled
Only 57 Percent Of The Country After
Local Forces Retreated From Many
Strongholds Amid An Insurgency From
The Taliban And Militants Affiliated To
ISIS"**

FEB 12 2017 by ALASTAIR JAMIESON, NBC News [Excerpts]

A \$99 million Afghan road-building project funded by U.S. taxpayers has been scrapped, according to a report that details how American military personnel were bribed with Rolex watches in exchange for contracts.

The deal was ditched in October after evidence emerged of corruption during the award of the contract by the country's government.

In the last three months of 2016 alone, criminal investigations resulted in one conviction and six sentences, nearly \$2 million in criminal fines and the recovery of \$320,000 according to a new quarterly report to Congress by the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction (SIGAR).

Far larger sums have been lost through waste, incompetence or suspected fraud that cannot be proven. Nearly \$43 million of U.S. taxpayers' money was spent on building a gas station in what SIGAR's top official, John Sopko, called "one of the worst examples of poor planning and just sheer stupidity."

Other blunders include \$335 million spent building a power plant that used just one percent of its capacity.

SIGAR says it has saved U.S. taxpayers about \$2 billion through audits and criminal investigations since the mission began more than 15 years ago.

That's a fraction of the \$117.25 billion of tax dollars spent on humanitarian aid, engineering assistance and civilian security — more than the cost of rebuilding Europe after World War II.

The cost includes \$8.5 billion spent on counternarcotics, even though opium poppy production in Afghanistan is at an all-time high.

In the latest SIGAR report, Sopko described the reconstruction work as “tenuous and incomplete” and warned that corruption was a major problem along with the “questionable capabilities” of the U.S.-trained Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF).

His report also painted a bleak picture on security, saying that the Afghan government now controlled only 57 percent of the country after local forces retreated from many strongholds amid an insurgency from the Taliban and militants affiliated to ISIS.

Local Afghan forces also sustained heavy casualties, with at least 6,785 soldiers and police killed in the first 10 months of last year, with 11,777 wounded, the report said.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Fort Lee Pays Man \$75K To Settle A Lawsuit Filed By A Man Arrested In 2013 For Having Illegal Bath Salts: He Had Legal Bath Salts

January 17, 2017 By Myles Ma, NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

FORT LEE -- The borough paid \$75,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by a man arrested in 2013 for having illegal bath salts, when in fact he had legal, bathtub bath salts.

Anthony Small, of the Bronx, N.Y., was a passenger in a vehicle on I-95 south in Fort Lee on Oct. 28, 2013, according to his suit filed against Fort Lee, Police Chief Ken Bendul and several Fort Lee police officers.

He and two others in the vehicle were coming back from a meeting with producers of “a popular VH1 television show” that was going to feature Small’s clothing line. Police stopped the vehicle for alleged minor motor vehicle violations.

Three officers removed them from the vehicle and questioned them at length by the side of the road, the suit says. Officer Richard Hernandez saw a plastic bag in the vehicle containing a blue granular substance he thought was illegal bath salts.

The salts were in their original packaging, which displayed the brand name “Soak,” marketed to athletes to aid with muscle recovery, according to the product website.

Small explained that his girlfriend got the bath salts at a promotional event for the NFL. Hernandez asked to search the vehicle based on the presence of the bath salts and because the suspects came from what the police report called “a source city.”

The three men gave permission for the search, the suit says. Police arrested Small and his companions based on the belief that the bath salts were the illegal kind.

Small was charged with distribution of a controlled dangerous substance and possession of narcotic paraphernalia.

A judge set Small’s bail at \$25,000 with no option to pay 10 percent cash. Police strip-searched him and sent him to Bergen County Jail when he couldn’t make bail immediately.

Small stayed in jail until posting bail Oct. 31, the suit says.

Because of this, he missed a follow-up meeting with the VH1 producers, “losing a significant business opportunity.”

Though Small eventually got his clothing on the show, his line could have appeared on five more episodes if not for the arrest, the suit says.

Meanwhile, Hernandez submitted the bath salts to a New Jersey State Police lab. The report came back Nov. 19, 2013 showing they were legal bath salts used to mix in water when bathing.

The charges were dismissed in court March 20, 2014.

Small’s suit accused Fort Lee of violating his right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure and his right to due process.

Small, who is black, also accused Fort Lee of violating state laws against discrimination.

The borough settled with Small on Sept. 22, 2016. Open records advocate John Paff first posted the agreement on his NJ Civil Settlements website.

Incidents involving bath salts--the stimulant--plummeted in 2012 after the state banned them the prior year. They were previously sold legally at gas stations and convenience stores.

Cop Tase Unarmed Surrendering Homeless Man: “He Seems Completely Disabled By The Taser Charge” “Nonetheless, Dulayev Tells Him, ‘Stop Resisting. Stop Resisting. You’ll Get Tased Again!’”



Heard seen after being rolled onto his back. He had been complaining about an inability to breathe. Courtesy of Holland, Holland, Edwards & Grossman

JANUARY 19, 2017 BY MICHAEL ROBERT, Westword [Excerpts]

A lawsuit inspired by a video in which Greg Heard, a homeless man, is tased while giving himself up to a Denver police officer is currently in the works.

But Heard’s attorney, John Holland, is releasing the video prior to the complaint’s filing because “it’s a matter of public concern. It should be out there, so people can understand that they should be very, very careful when confronting police officers armed with tasers. Because they will be tased — and many people have died from tasing. It can be deadly.”

Holland, who’s working on the Heard case in conjunction with Dan Weiss and other colleagues at the law firm of Holland, Holland, Edwards & Grossman, previously

represented Alex Landau, whose beating by Denver police officers after a minor traffic stop resulted in a \$795,000 settlement.

In addition, his practice is currently handling the case of Ryan Ronquillo, who was killed by Denver cops outside a Denver funeral home. The lawsuit in the Ronquillo matter contends that police opened fire on the unarmed man before he could surrender — a scenario similar to the one that led to Heard's tasing.

The DPD report in the Heard incident dates to June 3 of last year. According to its synopsis, officers Greg Dulayev and Adrian Enriquez were dispatched to the corner of Park Avenue West and North Clarkson Street on a report of an assault in progress. A not quite completely redacted portion of the narrative maintains that "the officers observed an assault occurring in the bushes where a black man was punching a white male."

The report goes on to say, in another partly redacted but still legible portion of the report, that Heard was "active/aggressive" when he crawled out from under the bush "and did not comply with Officer Dulayev's commands to stop advancing on him. Officer Dulayev had to take several steps backwards to avoid being potentially assaulted by Heard. Heard did not stop walking towards Officer Dulayev, at which time he deployed his taser at the front of the suspect."

By the time Officer Dulayev's body-worn camera begins recording, Heard is the only person under the bush. Once the audio kicks in (during the first thirty seconds of the clip, there's no sound because of a delay), Dulayev orders, "Crawl out. Crawl out on your hands and knees. I'll fucking tase you."

The first of several screen captures from the clip shared here shows that Heard moves as directed, displaying his hands in front of him in a way that makes it clear he doesn't have a weapon:

After crawling out from behind the bush, Heard stands, but he appears to duck in order to avoid overhanging greenery from a tree:

At that point, Dulayev snaps, "Stop!" However, Heard takes either one or two more steps — and the officer fires his taser:

An instant later, Heard cries out and clutches his midsection before toppling face first to the dirt-covered ground in front of him.

He seems completely disabled by the taser charge. Nonetheless, Dulayev tells him, "Stop resisting. Stop resisting. You'll get tased again!"

In the immediate aftermath of the tasing, Heard gasps, "I can't breathe, man! I can't breathe!" Over subsequent repetitions of this phrase, he even uses the word "sir."

Dulayev mostly ignores these statements while trying to arrange for a paramedic to take a look at Heard. But finally, he says, "You're talking, so you can breathe. Relax now. It's over. It's done. Okay?"

A moment later, Dulayev asks, “Why you do that, man? All I asked you to do was come out. Was it a bad decision?”

For his part, Heard didn’t think he’d done anything to deserve being tased, as he expressed in a letter to Holland’s law office.

Staffers responded by asking the DPD for the video through a Colorado Open Records Act request that was denied. “They said they were having an official investigation, which they probably weren’t,” Holland says. “I’m not aware of any Internal Affairs findings or investigation of the officers.”

In the end, however, the DPD supplied the video to Heard’s public defender as part of the discovery process in the original assault prosecution — a separate case from any potential lawsuit.

Holland’s focus is the video, and after his firm obtained a copy, he says, “We made a demand to the city and said, ‘What are you doing with this? The net effect is, you didn’t give him a chance to surrender. He was in mid-step. You didn’t let him finish the step when you gave him the warning and then you tased him.’”

In the clip, Holland continues, “You can see his eyes looking right in the camera, and he looks friendly. His hands are down. He’s obviously unarmed and he looks like he’s giving up. He was under the bushes, and he has to get out, but he’s doing what he’s supposed to do.

“Then he gets tased, which is mean-spirited and unjustified, and the officer starts saying, ‘Stop resisting,’ which he’s not doing at all. At that point, his head is down on the ground and he’s semi-paralyzed.

“His arms are trapped underneath his body. They had to pull them out in order to handcuff him. His face is in the dirt, he isn’t jumping or flailing, his feet aren’t moving. He’s hurting and says he’s having trouble breathing, and the officer tells him that he can’t be short of breath because he’s talking.

“But just because you’re short of breath doesn’t mean you can’t talk.”

It could have been even worse, Holland acknowledges. “Greg Heard could have been killed by tasing. People are dying all over the country from tasers. Just Google ‘death by police taser’ and see what you get. And Greg didn’t do anything to deserve the risk of deadly force. He was surrendering. His hands were out. Take a step back, officer.”

By the way, giving ground in such scenarios is actually suggested in the Denver Police Department’s new use-of-force draft policy.

During an interview on the subject published yesterday, DPD Deputy Chief of Administration Matt Murray said, “We have often taught, ‘Don’t give up ground. Don’t retreat.’ What happens, especially if you’re dealing with someone — and we often are — who may have mental-health issues or alcohol issues or impairment issues, is that standing your ground may escalate the situation.... You don’t just go home. It’s really important that people realize we’re not saying we’re not going to enforce the law. We’re not just driving away. But we may have moving perimeters. We’re going to slow things

down and get more resources in there, appropriate resources, so we can deal with the situation. There shouldn't be a line in the sand. If you need to move back a little bit, move back a little bit, or move forward. Use your head."

Despite this evolving philosophy, Holland says, "We've talked to the city, and they're not interested in resolving it without a lawsuit. So we're in the process of bringing a suit — and we think this society needs to continue to think very hard about the police's use of force. If we're ever to rebuild the relationship that people on both sides claim they want, it's going to require police to be much more respectful of citizens' rights and not always pretend that abuses of power like this are just or justifiable.

"Just because you get stopped by a policeman doesn't mean you get to be injured, and I'm afraid the law is heading in that direction — toward allowing injuries at will. People beware."

MILITARY NEWS

**“GO BACK HOME YOU
TOWELHEAD TERRORISTS!
TRUMP IS THE PRESIDENT NOW!”**

**“This Huge Hulking Tattooed Looked
Like He Rode A Motorcycle Here
Wearing A Duck Dynasty Style Flag
Headband Got Up From His Table
And Made A Beeline For The Hapless
Woman”**

**“Ma'am I Served In The Military To
Protect Everyone In This Country
Including You And Your Beautiful
Children. Please Allow Me To
Accompany You Through The Line”**

February 6 John Gingerich, Facebook

This, from a person I actually know and asked to not include her name...

I read about these things happening all the time. I read posts here that document these things happening. But it happened in front of me tonight. Here's my story that I wrote while waiting at Taco Bell for my food order. This happened 15 minutes ago.....

I just saw the most amazing thing. I am at Taco Bell right now awaiting my to go order. It is very backed up and slow which I don't mind as I'm in no hurry. A woman in a hijab and her children came in and joined the line to order.

An older white guy, 60s probably, wearing a ball cap (not a trump one) and average looking clothes spies her, turns around and says loudly and with disdain to her GO BACK HOME YOU TOWELHEAD TERRORISTS! TRUMP IS THE PRESIDENT NOW!

We all gaped stupefied. As my mind was reeling and finally engaged enough to start to get up and say something, she was already turning to leave hurriedly.

THEN this huge hulking tattooed looked like he rode a motorcycle here wearing a duck dynasty style flag headband got up from his table and made a beeline for the hapless woman. I thought "oh crap" to myself. This is just about to get a lot worse....

Then he got to her. He put his hand on her shoulder and said loudly "ma'am I served in the military to protect everyone in this country including you and your beautiful children. Please allow me to accompany you through the line".

She rejoined the line behind the trump loudmouth again.

Then The Hero got up in the jerk's face and said "are you SURE you want to eat here tonight?" And that guy abruptly left.

Then the entire place broke out clapping.

My faith in humanity was restored a little tonight.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?

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

Whether at a base in the USA or stationed outside the Continental United States, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war and economic injustice, inside the armed services and at home.

Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance Newsletter,
459 Columbus Avenue, PMB#282, New York, N.Y. 10024

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.

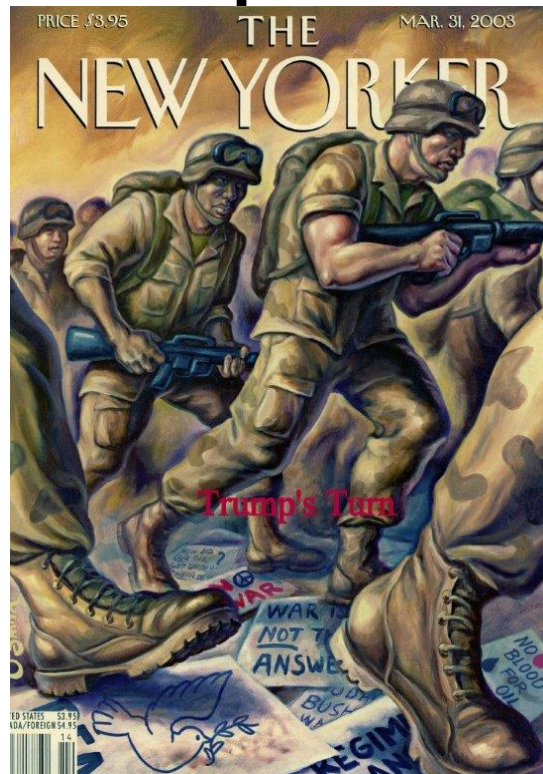
“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**Popolo; popolo; muoiano i tiranni!
-- Machiavelli’s “History of Florence, “ Book III**

Trump's Turn



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: February 20, 2017
Subject: Trump's Turn

Trump's Turn...

The American Empire on Full Throttle !

"The way to stop terrorism is to stop participating in it."
Noam Chomsky

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

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

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic

“Not Only Are The Bosses Not Turning To Fascists, But There Is No Fascist Mass Movement Capable Of Playing This Role In The United States”

“Trump Captured The Presidency Through Winning The Candidacy For One Of The Two Main Bourgeois Parties”

“That He Was Able To Do So Despite The Opposition Of The Republican Establishment Is A Symptom Of The General Weakening Of Structured Political Organisations”

“Rather Than Build A New Party, He Exploited The Decay Of The Old Ones”

15th December 2016 by Alex Callinicos, Issue 153, International Socialism [UK]

This understanding of National Socialism corresponds remarkably closely to the broader definition of fascism offered by Robert O Paxton, one of the leading mainstream scholars in the field:

“Fascism may be defined as a form of political behaviour marked by obsessive -preoccupation with community decline, humiliation, or victimhood and by compensatory

cults of unity, energy, and purity, in which a mass-based party of committed nationalist militants, working in uneasy but effective collaboration with traditional elites, abandons democratic liberties and pursues with redemptive violence and without ethical or legal restraints goals of internal cleansing and external expansion.” [Paxton, Robert O, 2004, *The Anatomy of Fascism* (Knopf)].

How well does this conception of fascism fit Trump?

Paxton himself has noted similarities in both the themes Trump plays—the ethnic stereotypes he uses and the way he harps on the theme of US “national decline”—and his highly personalised and operatic political style. But Paxton highlights two important differences.

First, at the level of ideology:

“the fascists offer themselves as a remedy for aggressive individualism, which they believed was the source of the defeat of Germany in World War I, and the decline of Italy, the failure of Italy. World War I, the perceived national decline, they blamed on individualism and their solution was to subject the individual to the interests of the community.

“Trump, and the Republicans generally, and indeed a great swath of American society have celebrated individualism to the absolute total extreme.” [Paxton interviewed in Chotiner, 2016: Chotiner, Isaac, 2016, “Is Donald Trump a Fascist? Yes and No”, *Slate* (10 February), <http://tinyurl.com/ha7nbxh>].

Secondly, the historical context in which Mussolini and Hitler triumphed was very different:

“It was a conscious choice in both countries to consider the socialists and the communists a much greater threat than the Nazis and fascists, and there was a conscious decision by the conservatives who were still holding the machinery of power to bring the fascists and the Nazis into the system in order to better fight the left.

“That particular dynamic is of course completely absent now.

“There was a conscious choice in Germany at the end of 1932 to use Hitler’s mass following to smash social democracy in Germany. The same strategic (choice) was made in Italy.

“I don’t see any of that dynamic. The old guard is against Trump. They’re not trying to use him, although, they may shift, they may decide that if Trump continues to be successful that he could be useful.” [Chotiner, 2016.]

This last point is decisive. The Long Depression has developed against the background of a protracted stagnation or decline in real wages for the mass of working class people. Of course, the bosses want to force workers’ living standards even further down in order to restore competitiveness and profitability. See, for the case of Europe, Pradella, 2015. [Pradella, Lucia, 2015, “The Working Poor in Western Europe: Labour, Poverty and Global Capitalism”, *Comparative European Politics*, volume 13, issue 5.]

But the weakening of trade union organisation in the neoliberal era means that the workers' movement doesn't represent the kind of obstacle to advancing capitalist interests that needs to be broken down forcibly.

In the inter-war era the specific attraction of the fascists to big business lay in the paramilitary mass movement they offered to shatter the organised working class, as Trotsky put it, "razing to their foundations all the institutions of proletarian democracy":

"At the moment that the 'normal' police and military resources of the bourgeois dictatorship, together with their parliamentary screens, no longer suffice to hold society in a state of equilibrium, the turn of the fascist regime arrives. Through the fascist agency, capitalism sets in motion the masses of crazed petty bourgeoisie, and bands of the declassed and demoralised lumpenproletariat; all the countless human beings whom finance capital itself has brought to desperation and frenzy.

"From fascism the bourgeoisie demands a thorough job... And the fascist agency, by utilising the petty bourgeoisie as a battering ram, by overwhelming all obstacles in its path, does a thorough job." [Trotsky, Leon, 1971, *The Struggle against Fascism in Germany* (Pathfinder)].

Not only are the bosses not turning to the fascists to provide this "battering ram", but there is no fascist mass movement—what Paxton calls "a mass-based party of committed nationalist militants"—capable of playing this role in the United States.

Trump captured the presidency through winning the candidacy for one of the two main bourgeois parties. That he was able to do so despite the opposition of the Republican establishment is a symptom of one of the typical phenomena of the neoliberal, the general weakening of structured political organisations.

Rather than build a new party, he exploited the decay of the old ones.

**Portugal 1975 -- A Revolution
Destroyed:
"The Far Left Had A Major Fault"
"The Revolutionary Left Had Neither
The Will Nor The Influence To Move
Rank-And-File Soldiers"
"This Is A Tragedy From Which We Must
All Learn"**

December 1985 By Chris Harman, Socialist Worker [UK] reprinted in February 11, 2011
Socialist Worker

Portugal was ruled by a full-fledged fascist regime for half a century, longer than anywhere else in Europe.

Opposition parties were banned. The only unions permitted were small, state-run craft associations.

Armed police were used to break any strike. Working-class leaders were consigned to the jails of the PIDE secret police for 10 or 20 years.

The fascist state ruled not only over Portugal, but also over an immense empire in Africa. The colonies of Angola, Guinea Bissau and Mozambique provided abundant profits for Portugal's giant monopolies and jobs for its middle class.

On the morning of April 25, 1974, the citizens of Lisbon arose from their beds to find tanks patrolling the streets and normal radio broadcasts replaced by military music. Was the coup from the left or the right? The answer came when the radio broadcast a popular anti-fascist song.

People rushed out into the streets to fraternize with the soldiers, handing them red carnations.

Together, they tore down the emblems of the fascist regime, opened the prisons to free political prisoners and arrested known police informers.

The new government was headed by Gen. António de Spínola, an old reactionary who had fought as a volunteer in Hitler's armies during the Second World War. But his government members were made up from all the underground anti-fascist parties, including the Communists.

And it soon became clear that power in the armed forces lay not with him, but with 400 junior officers who had actually organized the coup--known as the Armed Forces Movement, or MFA.

The army had turned against fascism for one simple reason--it was losing the colonial war in Africa. But there were big differences on how to react to this.

Spinola put forward the line of the big Portuguese monopolies. Their aim was to replace direct Portuguese rule by indirect rule based upon "moderate," CIA-financed movements in the colonies, even if this meant continuing the war for the time being.

The junior officers wanted to end the war at all costs, and knew only one way to do so--to hand over power to the real liberation movements, like the MPLA (People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola) in Angola and Frelimo in Mozambique.

The divisions were soon increased by something else. Portugal had undergone considerable industrialization in the last decade of fascism. It was because big business

wanted to prevent action by workers that Spinola took the Communists, by far the largest underground party, into his government.

They told workers to trust Spinola, and the Communist minister of labor framed a new anti-strike law.

But the workers were not to be held back in this way.

“There Was A Growing Tendency For Rank-And-File Soldiers To Organize Politically For Themselves, Joining Left-Wing Demonstrations And Siding With Workers To Industrial Disputes”

THE GIANT Lisnave shipyard began a wave of strikes that swept the country in the early summer of 1974. These workers faced opposition from all the government parties. Yet the workers succeeded in forcing massive improvements in pay and conditions and a general “cleaning out” of reactionary managers in industry and the media.

All this was too much for Spinola, big business and the Portuguese right. He tried to stop the revolution in its tracks in September with a fascist-style rally. But a mass mobilization of workers stopped it from taking place, and he was forced to resign.

In March 1975, he tried again, this time with a military coup.

But workers argued with soldiers who had been sent to seize the approaches to Lisbon and persuaded them to turn against their reactionary officers.

Instead of stopping the revolution, the actions of the right spurred it forward.

The banking unions closed down the banks until the government agreed to nationalize them--and with them some 60 percent of Portuguese industry. Workers occupied more than 300 factories.

The old generals lost their control over the armed forces to the junior officers of the MFA.

And there was a growing tendency for rank-and-file soldiers to organize politically for themselves, joining left-wing demonstrations and siding with workers to industrial disputes.

Foreign socialists who visited Lisbon in the summer of 1975 underwent an experience that they would not forget. Here was a city where the majority of the working class wanted socialism and where the old obstacles, in terms of the police, the army and even a well-organized capitalist class, seemed in complete disarray.

Yet other obstacles, just as dangerous, continued to exist.

Within the working-class movement, the two main parties were the recently reformed Socialist Party of Mário Soares and the Communist Party.

“Within The Armed Forces, They Began To Plot With The Old Right-Wing General To Oust The Junior Officers Who Had Overthrown Fascism”

The Socialist Party had gone along with the first popular mobilizations against the right. But its leaders took fright at the further development of the revolution. They were soon trying to whip up a lynch-mob atmosphere against the left.

In northern Portugal, they encouraged right-wing rioters who burned down the offices of unions and left-wing parties.

Within the armed forces, they began to plot with the old right-wing general to oust the junior officers who had overthrown fascism.

But the Socialist Party alone could not have saved Portuguese capitalism. It only had support from a minority of workers in the key Lisbon industrial belt, and in the unions.

The majority party of the workers at the time of the overthrow of fascism was the Communist Party.

If it had fought for socialist revolution by leading the wave of strikes and occupations that began in the early summer of 1974, it would have been unstoppable.

But it followed a different tack.

It denounced the strike wave, while attempting to get control of the existing state by secret plots with opportunist politicians and army officers. Its leaders believed this would enable them to establish an Eastern European-type society.

The high point of their success was the summer of 1975, when an officer thought too sympathetic to the party, Vasco Goncalves, formed a government. But this soon proved incapable of effectively ruling the country. It refused to unleash the revolutionary energy of the workers and it could not deal with a wave of sabotage and unrest in the rural areas of the north. Goncalves soon quietly abandoned power to those to the right of him.

A quite considerable minority of workers turned to genuinely revolutionary ideas. The small revolutionary parties mushroomed in size until they exercised considerable influence.

“The Army Officers Became More And More Impotent”

Yet the far left had a major fault.

Although they talked about the working class, they all acted as if some other social force could substitute itself for the class.

They devoted as much attention to courting left-wing army officers as to trying to win factory workers away from the Communist Party.

Time was running out for the left-wing officers.

They could dominate Portuguese politics while the old ruling class was demoralized and divided.

But once it began to get its act together--with a lot of help from Western governments and from the Socialist Party--the army officers became more and more impotent.

By November 1975, there were only two choices: either the working class took things into its own hands, or the old ruling class would stage a comeback.

The right struck on November 25.

The pretext was the occupation of TV stations by a group of left-wing soldiers.

Right-wing officers moved their troops quickly to disarm all the left-wing soldiers in the Lisbon area and to restore the power of the old generals.

They met very little resistance. It required only a couple thousand troops to disarm the much larger left-influenced forces in Lisbon.

The reason lay in the way the left had put its faith in maneuvering by army officers, rather than in mass workers' action.

The Communist Party, which only the day before had organized a successful two-hour general strike, refused to take action against the advance of the right. It seemed to think it would be able to plot its way to power regardless.

The left-wing officers were not ready to wage what might well be an armed confrontation against their fellow officers, and made no move.

The revolutionary left had neither the will nor the influence to move rank-and-file workers in the face of the Communist Party's opposition, or rank-and-file soldiers in the face of opposition from the left-wing officers.

The right wing was careful not to use its newfound control of the army and police to attack workers' conditions immediately. It knew that to do so might rekindle the fire of the revolution.

But the more the revolutionary years of 1974 and 1975 receded into the past, the more such gains were taken back by the employing classes. The fact that most of the time the Socialist Party was in the government did not make any difference,

A decade later, average wages were 10 percent lower than they were in 1973, the last year of fascism. Hundreds of thousands of workers have to wait six months or more for wages owing to them. Lisbon is once again a city noted for the large number of people begging in the streets.

Portugal showed the promise of a very different sort of future in 1974 and 1975. That did not materialize because there was not a powerful revolutionary socialist party to challenge the hold of the Communist and Socialist Parties.

This is a tragedy from which we must all learn.

“The Fate Of Every Revolution At A Certain Point Is Decided By A Break In The Disposition Of The Army”

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

“The Fate Of Every Revolution At A Certain Point Is Decided By A Break In The Disposition Of The Army”

There is no doubt that the fate of every revolution at a certain point is decided by a break in the disposition of the army.

Against a numerous, disciplined, well-armed and ably led military force, unarmed or almost unarmed masses of the people cannot possibly gain a victory.

But no deep national crisis can fail to affect the army to some extent.

Thus along with the conditions of a truly popular revolution there develops a possibility – not, of course, a guarantee – of its victory.

However, the going over of the army to the insurrection does not happen of itself, nor as a result of mere agitation.

The army is heterogeneous, and its antagonistic elements are held together by the terror of discipline. On the very eve of the decisive hour, the revolutionary soldiers do not know how much power they have, or what influence they can exert.

The working masses, of course, are also heterogeneous. But they have immeasurably more opportunity for testing their ranks in the process of preparation for the decisive encounter. Strikes, meetings, demonstrations, are not only acts in the struggle, but also measures of its force.

The whole mass does not participate in the strike. Not all the strikers are ready to fight. In the sharpest moments the most daring appear in the streets. The hesitant, the tired, the conservative, sit at home.

Here a revolutionary selection takes place of itself; people are sifted through the sieve of events.

It is otherwise with the army.

The revolutionary soldiers – sympathetic, wavering or antagonistic – are all tied together by a compulsory discipline whose threads are held, up to the last moment, in the officer’s fist.

The soldiers are told off daily into first and second files, but how are they to be divided into rebellious and obedient?

The psychological moment when the soldiers go over to the revolution is prepared by a long molecular process, which, like other processes of nature, has its point of climax.

But how determine this point?

A military unit may be wholly prepared to join the people, but may not receive the needed stimulus.

The revolutionary leadership does not yet believe in the possibility of having the army on its side, and lets slip the victory. After this ripened but unrealized mutiny, a reaction may seize the army.

The soldiers lose the hope which flared in their breasts; they bend their necks again to the yoke of discipline, and in a new encounter with the workers, especially at a distance, will stand opposed to the insurrection.

In this process there are many elements imponderable or difficult to weigh, many crosscurrents, collective suggestions and autosuggestions.

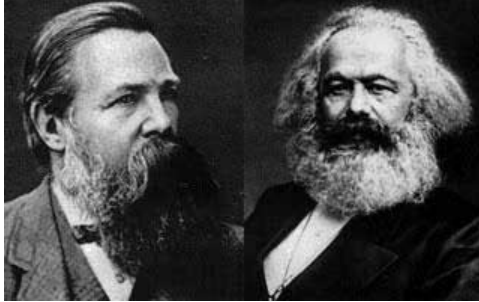
But out of this complicated web of material and psychic forces one conclusion emerges with irrefutable clarity: the more the soldiers in their mass are convinced that the rebels are really rebelling – that this is not a demonstration after which they will have to go back to the barracks and report, that 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.

ANNIVERSARIES

February 21, 1848: World-Shaking Anniversary

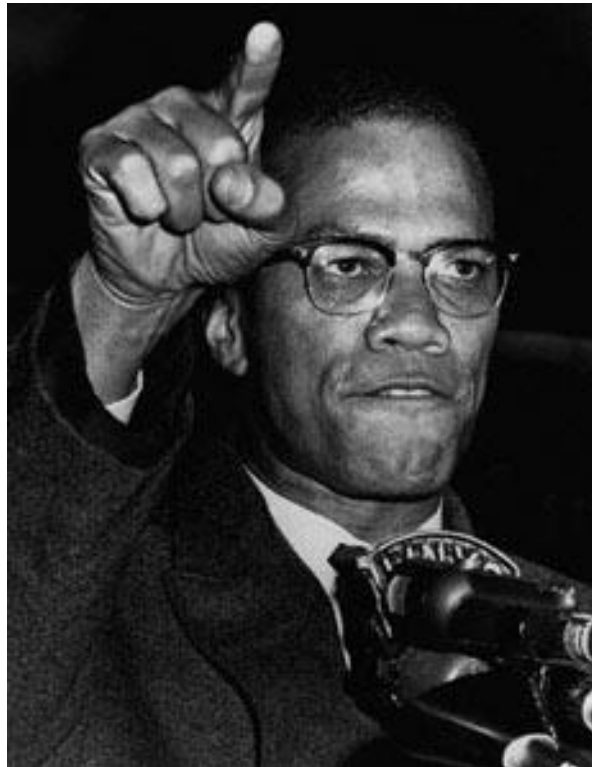


Carl Bunin Peace history February 18-24

“The Communist Manifesto,” written by 29-year-old Karl Marx with the assistance of Friedrich Engels, was published in London (in German) by a group of German-born revolutionary socialists known as the Communist League.

The political pamphlet — arguably one of the most influential in history — proclaimed that “the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles,” and that the inevitable victory of the proletariat, or working class, would put an end to class society forever.

February 21, 1965: A Brilliant And Courageous Soldier For The Cause Killed In Action



Carl Bunin Peace History Peace History February 18-24

Malcolm X was shot and killed by rival Black Muslims in New York City, as he was about to address his Organization of Afro-American Unity at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City's Washington Heights. He was 39. **[He was killed not long after announcing his new politics: that working class whites and African-Americans can join together to fight those who own and control the society for their own wealth and privilege. T]**

February 23, 2011: Benghazi Liberation Day: “Now He Has To Explain Where All The Bodies Are”

Carl Bunin Peace history February 18-24

Benghazi, Libya's second largest city, fell to rebels after three days of violent clashes with the forces of brutal dictator Col. Muammar Qaddafi.

“He is gone. A dragon has been slain,” cried Ahmed Al-Fatuir outside the secret police headquarters. “Now he has to explain where all the bodies are.”

RECEIVED FROM READERS

**Politicians Swarmed And
Swamped By Angry Citizens:
“This Feels Like No Other Political
Moment In Recent Time For Them”
“Everyone We Spoke With Was
Rattled”**

“The Phones Haven’t Stopped Since The Inauguration And They Admitted They Can’t Check Voicemail Because There Is No Pause To Do So”

Feb 12, 2017 by Michael Eisenscher, via David McReynolds

Just got this from a friend- thought I’d pass it along

For those wondering whether their constant calls to Republican legislators are being heard or noted: Update from Ben Wideman, a Mennonite pastor in Pennsylvania about a visit to his Republican senator’s office:

Just got back from a visit to Senator Pat Toomey’s Johnstown office with 15 other Borough of State College & Penn State area people to talk about the immigration ban. Here are my takeaways:

1. Everyone we spoke with was rattled. They have never experienced this much constant feedback. The phones haven’t stopped since the Inauguration and they admitted they can’t check voicemail because there is no pause to do so.

2 Letters are the only thing getting through at this point (NOTE: POSTCARDS GET THROUGH SOONER. Letters are often impounded for five weeks to check for contaminants). Regional offices are a much better mail destination because they compile, sort, and send everything.

DC mail is so backed up right now it takes twice as long for things to get processed.

3. Toomey’s staff seem frustrated with Trump. They said his barrage of Executive Orders are not how government is supposed to work, and was what they hated during moments of the Obama era.

One of them said, “we have a democratic system and process. Trump needs to stop behaving like a Monarch.”

4. Our representatives are listening because people are raising their voices. This feels like no other political moment in recent time for them.

5. Toomey’s staffers are far more empathetic than I assumed. Also far more technology illiterate (one asked me how to use twitter, and how we already knew about Toomey’s published statement). They resonate that the immigration ban feels immoral and unAmerican.

6. Regional offices are not designed to handle this volume of unrest.

7. Personal stories matter. Tell the stories of people being impacted by arbitrary religious and ethnic legislation. Staffers want to know.

8. Don't stop. Do whatever small part you can do to keep raising your voice to your representatives. Not just this issue, but every way marginalized people are being (or will be) exploited under this President.

feel free to pass this along if you think other folk might find it encouraging.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Hundreds Of Thousand March For More Refugees In Barcelona



February 20, 2017 TeleSUR English

The slogan “We Want to Welcome Them” rang in the streets as up to half a million people demonstrated in Barcelona on February 18 to demand their government accept more refugees. It came after Spain accepted just 1000 of the 17,000 it had promised.

“It is very important that in a Europe of uncertainty where xenophobia is on the rise for Barcelona to be a capital of hope,” said Barcelona’s mayor Ada Colau, who took part.

Colau, from the left-wing Barcelona For All platform, came to office as an organizer with an anti-eviction campaign, an offshoot of the Indignados movement that also produced the group that organized the march, the pro-refugee Cosa Nostra Casa Vostra.

Police put attendance at about 160,000 protesters, but estimates from activists were much higher, with representatives from various social groups present.

Although Spain had pledged to accept 17,337 refugees in the next two years, as of February 16, it has only accepted 1100 in a year-and-a-half.

Egyptian Textile Workers' Strike Shows Growing Anger At Regime's Austerity

February 8, 2017 by Tomáš Tengely-Evans/Socialist Worker-UK

Around 3,000 textile workers in Mahalla, northern Egypt, walked out on Tuesday in a sign of growing discontent at spiralling living costs.

The workers are demanding higher wages and payment of bonuses. As one worker told the Mada Masr website, "We are all demanding that our incomes be augmented in line with the constantly rising cost of living.

"We're also demanding that our basic wages be increased so that we are able to cope with the new austerity policies."

Despite working for a nationalised company, the workers do not get the national monthly minimum wage that other public sector workers get. "Even this monthly minimum wage is insufficient to provide for workers and their families" said the worker.

The rising cost of living is the driving force behind their walkout, but their demands go beyond "economic" ones.

The workers are also fighting for the reinstatement of victimised workers and recalling the bosses-sanctioned trade union committee. As the worker explained, "This union doesn't represent us. "It represents the company's management and it always aligns itself with management's policies."

They work in the clothing section of nationalised Misr Spinning and Weaving Company, the country's largest textile mill. Workers said that they could pull the rest of the company out if their demands are not met.

The Mahalla textile workers' strike is not isolated. While the butcher Abdel Fatah el Sisi's regime has put down strikes through repression, it is significant that workers keep organising and fighting back.

Police stormed the IFFCO oils and soap factory in Suez and broke up a workers' sit-in against bosses' attacks on bonuses last month.

A shutdown hit the Covertina Sweet Factory around the same time—and the previous month workers at the Fayyoun Sugar Plant also struck.

Meanwhile, bus workers leaders in the capital Cairo have been fighting persecution by the authorities. A number of militants are appealing a two-year jail sentence and £5,000 fine imposed on them for striking in 2014.

Faced with a growing crisis for Egyptian capitalism, the regime is leaning more and more on Gulf capital and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Through short-term loans and investments—and ruthless repression—it hopes to keep a lid on the situation.

But in return for the IMF loan, the regime has to push through a brutal “structural adjustment programme”. This is hitting working class living standards—and driving some resistance—and also impacting on the middle class.

Mahalla was at a centre of working class militancy and was at the forefront during the Egyptian Revolution of 2011. This walkout shows that while the regime has put down struggle, it cannot bank on pacifying a working class with a militant tradition.

Unions Getting More Popular: New Poll Shows Surge In Support; “The Second Highest Level Of Support Ever Found For Unions In This Particular Survey, Which Has Been Conducted Off- And-On Since 1985”

February 1, 2017 NWLABORPress.org

According to a Jan. 4-9 poll, 60 percent of the American public has a favorable opinion of labor unions, while 35 percent have an unfavorable opinion.

That’s the second highest level of support ever found for unions in this particular survey, which has been conducted off-and-on since 1985, sponsored by the Pew Research Center.

It’s also a big jump in union support since March 2015, the last time the survey was conducted, when 48 percent were favorable toward unions and 39 percent unfavorable.

The survey was conducted by telephone January 4-9 among a national sample of 1,502 adults. Results were also broken down by age, party affiliation, education, and income.

Young people were far more likely than older adults to view labor unions favorably:

Three-quarters of those aged 18 to 29 say they have a favorable opinion of labor unions, while only 53 percent of those 50 and older do.

The survey also found that 76 percent of Democrats hold a favorable view of unions, compared to 44 percent of Republicans.

But even among Republicans, the young were more likely to have a favorable view of labor unions: 55 percent of under-30 Republicans looked favorably on unions, compared to 32 percent of those 50 and older.

Meanwhile, 49 percent of Republicans without a college degree favored unions, compared to 28 percent of college-educated Republicans.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

The Killing By Police Of Yacoub Abu Al-Qiyan:

“Police Spokesman Micky Rosenfeld Made Three Allegations Against Abu Al-Qiyan That He Said Proved He Was A Terrorist”
“All Of Them Have Now Been Shown To Be Entirely Unfounded”
“Abu Al-Qiyan Was Left For Up To Half An Hour To Bleed To Death, While Police Denied An Ambulance Access To His Village”

2 February 2017 by Jonathan Cook,jonathan-cook.net/blog/

Speaking to me for my report last month on the killing by police of Yacoub Abu al-Qiyan during the demolition of his home in Umm al-Hiran, in the Negev, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld made three allegations against Abu al-Qiyan that he said proved he was a terrorist.

All of them have now been shown to be entirely unfounded.

A fourth claim, made against Ayman Odeh, head of the Joint List and the most senior politician among Israel's 1.7 million Palestinian citizens, has also proved to be untrue.

The Israeli police appear to have been caught out as serial liars.

Rosenfeld himself may have not known that he was peddling lies. He may have been simply reading from a script. But others surely knew.

Not only did they wilfully mislead journalists, but they dangerously incited against Israel's large Palestinian minority.

(This would be far from the first time. Only recently, the police, as well as prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, accused Palestinian citizens of waging an “arson intifada” against Israel in November, when hundreds of fires broke out due to exceptional weather conditions. All of the dozens of Palestinians arrested over the fires were subsequently released, but no apology or retraction has been issued.)

First, Rosenfeld told me Abu al-Qiyan had carried out a deliberate “car-ramming terror attack” on police, which killed one officer. But a police aerial video of the

incident shows that police opened fire on the car while Abu al-Qiyan was driving slowly and cautiously to leave his home before the demolition crew began work.

Further, leaks of an autopsy report show that Abu al-Qiyan was shot twice, in the torso and the knee, strongly suggesting that he lost control of the car as he tried to navigate carefully down a steep dirt track.

If anyone is responsible for the death of the police officer, Erez Levy, it is his colleagues who opened fire without provocation.

Of equal concern should be the fact that Abu al-Qiyan was left for up to half an hour to bleed to death, while police denied an ambulance access to his village.

Second, Rosenfeld told me that Abu al-Qiyan's terrorist intent was discernible because, even though the incident occurred before dawn, he had turned off his headlights to avoid detection. But a new video shows his car lights were on, just as one would have expected.

Third, Rosenfeld told me police had definitive proof that Abu al-Qiyan was a supporter of ISIS, and that the evidence would soon be divulged. But two weeks later Israel's domestic intelligence service, the Shin Bet, have provided no evidence of such a link.

All his family deny that he supported ISIS, or even that he held strong political views.

And fourth, Rosenfeld denied Knesset member Ayman Odeh's claim that police fired a potentially lethal sponge-tipped bullet at his head. Rosenfeld said instead that the Knesset member's injuries had been caused by stones thrown by the inhabitants of Umm al-Hiran opposing the dozen or so demolitions police were carrying out.



Another police spokesperson told the Israeli Maariv newspaper that the police did not even have sponge-tipped bullets in their armoury.

There were multiple problems with that account. Witnesses say there was no stone-throwing at the time Odeh was injured. And the Knesset member is photographed

holding the bullet in Umm al-Hiran, after he was shot. There is also a picture (above) of a huge bruise across his back, where he was shot a second time. It is hard to imagine how that injury was caused apart from by an impact with some form of rubber bullet.

And, whatever the police claim, there are well-documented instances of Israeli police using sponge-tipped bullets before, especially in East Jerusalem, but also in the Negev. The shocking thing in this case is that they used these bullets against a Palestinian Knesset member.

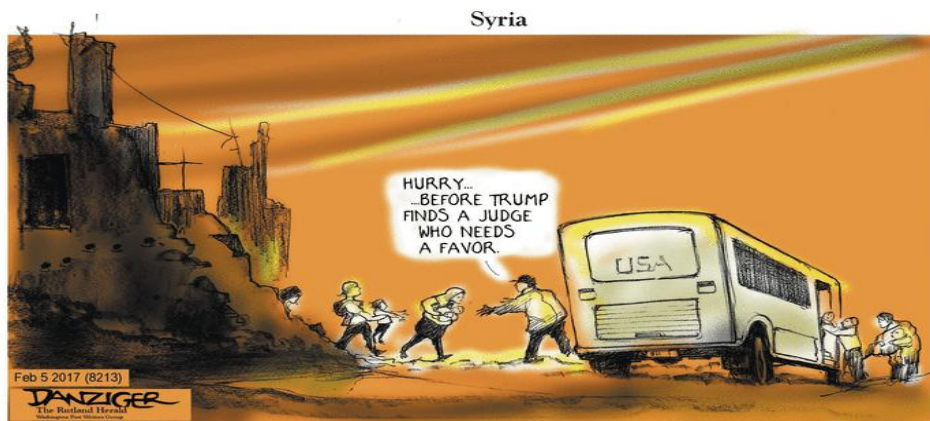
Interestingly, when challenged by another journalist, Mairav Zonszein, Rosenfeld denied that he had said Odeh was hit by stones, only that: "During the incident stones were thrown." Well, my notes from our conversation show him clearly stating that Odeh's head injury was caused by a stone.

It is past time for the police and the government ministers who for two weeks have incited against Abu al-Qiyas, against the inhabitants of Umm al-Hiran and more generally against Israel's Palestinian citizens to issue an apology for their serial lies and distortions.

It is also essential that the government set up an independent, judicial-led inquiry to assess what really happened in Umm al-Hiran on the morning of January 18.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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