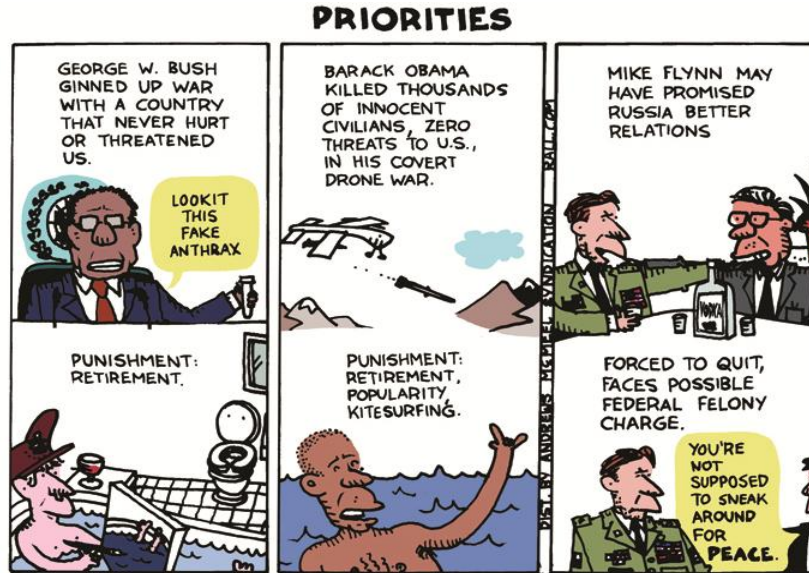


Military Resistance 15B7



“Widely Shared Videos Of Lawmakers Confronted By Constituents Angry Over Efforts To Repeal The Affordable Care Act”

“Small Groups Have Swelled Into Crowds Outside Local Congressional Offices”

“A ‘Dam-Bursting Level’ Of Grass-Roots Activism Has

Bubbled Up From Street Protests”

“There’s Certainly No Leadership At The
Head Of The Democratic Party, Or The
State Party”



A contentious town-hall-style meeting at Brighton High School in Cottonwood Heights, Utah, held by Representative Jason Chaffetz, a Republican, last week. RICK BOWMER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

FEBRUARY 17, 2017 By KATE ZERNIKE and ALEXANDER BURNS, New York Times [Excerpts]

As Republican lawmakers prepare to leave Washington for a weeklong congressional recess, liberal groups and Democratic Party organizers are hoping to make their homecoming as noisy and uncomfortable as possible.

But national organizers concede they are playing catch-up to a “dam-bursting level” of grass-roots activism that has bubbled up from street protests and the small groups that have swelled into crowds outside local congressional offices.

Protests against the Republican agenda have become routine since President Trump took office, with momentum building through widely shared videos of lawmakers being confronted by constituents angry over efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

While complaints about the health care act — high premiums in particular — helped elect Mr. Trump, polls show it has become more popular as voters realize that repealing it would mean that an estimated 30 million people lose health insurance.

Anti-abortion demonstrations in some cities this month were met with much larger crowds of abortion rights supporters.

At a widely viewed town-hall-style meeting held by Representative Gus Bilirakis in Florida, a local Republican Party chairman who declared that the health care act set up “death panels” was shouted down by supporters of the law.

Several Republicans, including Mr. Trump, have dismissed the pro-health care act crowds as “paid protesters,” not constituents.

In fact, some of the most formidable and well-established organizing groups on the left have found themselves scrambling to track all of the local groups sprouting up through social media channels like Facebook and Slack, or in local “huddles” that grew out of the women’s marches across the country the day after the inauguration.

“We’re just constantly being flooded with people asking us, ‘What can we do, where can we go?’” said Ben Wikler, the Washington director of MoveOn.org, who coined the “dam-bursting level” description. “For politicians to imagine that it’s something that any group could turn on and off like a light switch is a critical miscalculation.”

“It doesn’t work for organizations to bigfoot strategy; it’s not the way organizing happens now,” said Kelley Robinson, the deputy national organizing director for Planned Parenthood, which is fighting the defunding of its health clinics.

“There are bigger ideas coming out of the grass roots than the traditional organizations.”

Some of the most creative activity is coming from people who are new to political activism. In Plymouth, Minn., Kelly Guncheon, a financial planner who described himself as an independent, has organized a “With Him or Without Him” meeting for Representative Erik Paulsen, a Republican who has not scheduled any of his own.

Mr. Guncheon, like other new activists, said he was not looking to traditional political groups for guidance.

“In this new culture, this new era, we have to figure out new ways to do things,” he said. “There’s certainly no leadership at the head of the Democratic Party, or the state party.

Other new groups organizing on Facebook have arranged similar events, calling them “no-show” or “empty-chair” meetings, for Senators Cory Gardner of Colorado and Patrick J. Toomey of Pennsylvania, as well as for Republican lawmakers from California, New Jersey and New York.

In response to Mr. Gardner’s complaints that the people showing up at his office to request town-hall-style meetings were paid protesters from other states, one group showed up at his office with a banner on which members had written their Colorado ZIP codes.

MORE:

**One Month In, Anti-Trump
Movement Shows Signs Of
Sustained Momentum:
“The Level Of Outrage May Be
Increasing, Rather Than
Subsiding” “If Anything, It’s Just
Getting Started”
“Republican Lawmakers Confronted
A Wave Of Anger”
“A Relentless Series Of Rallies, Marches
And Protests That Shows No Signs Of
Abating More Than 30 Days Into The New
Administration”**

February 24, 2017 By Joseph Ax and Emily Stephenson/Reuters. Additional reporting by Steve Bittenbender in Louisville, Kentucky; editing by Frank McGurty and Jonathan Oatis. [Excerpts]

BRANCHBURG, N.J./VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.

U.S. Representative Leonard Lance, who has held more than 40 town hall-style meetings with constituents in his central New Jersey district, has never faced a crowd like he did on Wednesday.

The Republican endured catcalls, chants and caustic questions from more than 1,000 residents at a local college, while hundreds of others outside brandished signs with messages like “Resist Trump.”

Parallel scenes have played out across the country this week during the first congressional recess since Donald Trump became president.

Republican lawmakers returning home confronted a wave of anger over a spectrum of issues, including immigration, healthcare and Trump’s possible ties to Russia.

The raucous meetings are the latest in a relentless series of rallies, marches and protests that shows no signs of abating more than 30 days into the new administration.

Since the day after Trump's inauguration, when millions of protesters joined women's marches worldwide, left-wing organizers have sought to harness that anger to fuel a lasting political campaign.

Hundreds of progressive groups have sprung up across the country - some affiliated with national organizations like Indivisible or MoveOn - to help coordinate.

At town halls in New Jersey and Virginia this week, constituents came armed with red "disagree" signs they held aloft to register their disapproval of what they heard from their representatives.

Some U.S. senators, such as Pat Toomey, Republican of Pennsylvania, have faced weekly protests outside their offices, and a Pennsylvania healthcare network set up a "town hall" this week with an empty suit in place of Toomey, who declined to attend.

The sheer volume of protests - last week, there were three nationwide calls for action within a five-day span - has some political observers wondering how long it can last.

But several experts who study protests said the level of outrage may be increasing, rather than subsiding, after a tumultuous first month in which Trump's words and actions created fresh outrage among liberals almost daily.

"We're not anywhere near reaching a saturation point for protest," said Michael Heaney, the author of "Party in the Street: The Antiwar Movement and the Democratic Party after 9/11" and a University of Michigan professor. "If anything, it's just getting started."

The key for organizers is to convert large-scale protests into sustained action by building databases of names and encouraging locally based events, experts said. "You can't just have the diehards," said Dana R. Fisher, a University of Maryland professor who studies collective action. "And then you need to channel them into new types of activism."

When Fisher surveyed participants at the women's march in Washington, she found one-third were attending their first protest - the highest percentage she has ever observed.

"This is unprecedented," she said. "But there's nothing that's not unprecedented about the Trump presidency."

Some Republicans have dismissed the protests as manufactured. Trump on Tuesday tweeted that "so-called angry crowds" in Republicans' districts were "planned out by liberal activists."

But Kaplan of MoveOn said the vast majority of actions were "organic." A weekly conference call the group hosts to discuss the movement has attracted a bigger number of participants each week, with 46,000 people joining the latest discussion.

“We are firing on all cylinders to catch up” with grassroots protests, she said. “That is a demonstration of energy and sustainability.”

Experts also said social media has made it far easier to organize mass protests quickly and efficiently.

In what Kaplan said was a sign the protests are having an impact, many Republicans have eschewed town halls this week to avoid confrontations.

There were fewer than 100 in-person Republican town halls scheduled for the first two months of the year, compared with more than 200 in the same period in 2015, according to a Vice report.

In Louisiana on Wednesday, residents shouted down Republican Senator Bill Cassidy as he tried to explain his healthcare proposal. Scott Taylor, a freshman Republican representative in Virginia, sparred with hundreds of impassioned constituents on Monday at his own event.

Like Lance, whose district voted for Hillary Clinton over Trump, Taylor is already a midterm target for Democrats. Taylor said in an interview after the town hall that he recognized many of the attendees from the local Democratic Party.

But not everyone was a Democrat. Austin Phillips, a 22-year-old Trump voter, told Taylor at the town hall he was worried about losing healthcare coverage if Obamacare is repealed.

“Trump has talked about wanting to repeal it,” Phillips, who is self-employed and purchased insurance through an exchange created by the law, said in a later interview. “If they quickly repeal it with no replacement lined up, then theoretically everybody would lose their insurance.”

Trump Has A Problem: Americans Increasingly Think He’s Incompetent; “Trump Was At Plus 18 On The ‘Good Leader’ Question In November, And Now He’s At Minus 13, A Decline Of 31 Points In Three Months”

Feb. 22, 2017 by Josh Barro, Business Insider

Donald Trump has already set a record for being the most unpopular new president since the invention of telephone polling. But I don't think job approval is the poll number Trump should be most worried about.

If I were him, I'd be worrying about the question the Quinnipiac University poll was asking about my leadership skills.

In a new Quinnipiac survey, out on Wednesday, only 42% of voters said they think Trump is a good leader, and 55% said he's not.

Trump's big thing is supposed to be leadership — he's the business guy, he hires the best people, and he knows how to shake things up in Washington and make America great again. Right?

In November, shortly after the election, 56% of respondents told Quinnipiac they thought Trump was a good leader, and only 38% said he wasn't. That's not too shabby for a guy who didn't even get the most votes.

But as Trump started actually doing stuff — running a transition, hiring people, issuing half-baked executive orders, firing his national security adviser after less than a month — the share of Americans willing to call him a good leader has steadily declined.

From 56% in November, it went to 49% in January, 47% earlier this month — and now 42%, or about 4 points less than his share of the popular vote.

In polling, you often analyze a question by measuring the difference between the share of respondents that gives the positive answer and the share that gives the negative one. By this measure, Trump was at plus 18 on the “good leader” question in November, and now he's at minus 13, a decline of 31 points in three months.

His term lasts another 47 months.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Taliban Down Afghan Helicopter

February 24th, 2017 BY BILL ROGGIO, Long War Journal. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of FDD's Long War Journal. [Excerpts]

The Afghan Taliban claimed it shot down an Afghan military helicopter in Kunduz yesterday as it was returning from an operation in the neighboring province of Takhar.

Afghan officials later claimed that the helicopter made an “emergency landing” after encountering mechanical problems.

In the past, Afghan officials have been less than forthcoming about the loss of aircraft as a result of enemy fire.

The Taliban reported yesterday on Voice of Jihad, its official propaganda outlet, that “Mujahideen of the Islamic Emirate shot down an enemy attack helicopter Thursday in Dashti Archi district of Kunduz as two of the enemy helicopter gunships were en route back to Kunduz from Takhar.” The Taliban also claimed it “seized” two DShK machine guns from the wreckage.

Today, the Afghan Ministry of Defense confirmed that an American-made MD-530 light attack helicopter “made emergency landing due to technical issues and the crew of the helicopter were rescued by the other helicopter,” according to Khaama Press. The helicopter landed in Dasht-i-Archi district.

The Khaama Press report had one other interesting detail: “(Ministry of Defense Spokesman) Waziri further added that the helicopter was destroyed in the area as it was not repairable.”

This is a strong indication that Dasht-i-Archi district is outside of the government’s control, as the Afghan military wouldn’t destroy the helicopter if it was able to recover it.

While it is difficult to assess if the Taliban or the Afghan Ministry of Defense’s version of the story is correct, the Taliban have proven credible in reports such as these in the past.

The Afghan military, on the other hand, has been less than forthcoming about attacks on its aviation assets and has even attempted to cover up the loss of its helicopters.

In one instance, in March 2016, Afghan officials claimed a helicopter in Kunar province made a hard landing, while the Taliban claimed it destroyed it as it landed at a remote base. The Taliban later issued video footage of the helicopter exploding in a massive IED attack as it landed.

**IF YOU DON’T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
RESIST THE OCCUPATION**

Bomb Killed At Least Two Soldiers And Wounded Three Others At Army Post

February 24, 2017 AP

An Afghan official says a bomb has killed at least two soldiers and wounded three others in southern Helmand province.

Omar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor, said the attack took place Friday morning when a car bomb exploded at an army post in the district of Girishk.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Taliban insurgents are active in southern provinces.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Hundreds Protest In Anaheim After Video Shows Off-Duty LAPD Officer Opening Fire During Confrontation With Unarmed Kids:

**“A Lot Of You’s Going To Be Red
Because You’ve Been Resisting
This Whole Time”**

**“The Younger Boy Insists He Was
Not And Says He ‘Didn’t Do Anything
To Hurt You’”**

**“After Responding To The Protests
Wednesday Night, Police Declared It An
Unlawful Assembly”**

February 23 By Mark Berman, Washington Post & TeleSUR English [Excerpts]

Hundreds protested in the streets of Anaheim Wednesday night as video surfaced of a white off-duty officer physically harassing a Chicano teenager, firing a gun in the direction of his friends – a group of brown and Black youth

No one was hurt during the shooting, but the episode was recorded and widely shared across social media, sparking anger in the area and leading to a standoff on Anaheim's streets between demonstrators and police.

The officer involved was placed on leave, while two teenagers were arrested after the incident.

Police say they arrested 23 people — 18 adults, five juveniles — Wednesday night during the protests that followed.

Authorities said the demonstrations involved between 200 and 300 people, and according to media accounts from the scene, many who gathered were young people who had seen the recording on social media.



Protesters in Anaheim on Wednesday night. (Joshua Sudock/Orange County Register via AP)

The shooting incident captured on video, which occurred on a residential street in Anaheim at about 2:40 p.m. Tuesday, involved an off-duty officer having “a physical confrontation” that took place “in front of his residence with several juveniles,” police said.

“The confrontation began over ongoing issues with juveniles walking across the officer’s property,” the Anaheim Police Department said in a statement.

What followed was recorded in footage that spread online, showing the officer struggling with one teenager before being knocked over by another young person before he pulled out his gun and fired a single shot.

Raul Quezada, the Anaheim police chief, said Thursday that according to statements gathered from people involved, the officer shot at the ground rather than any person.

Quezada said he was disturbed by the incident and that he wished the officer had not confronted the teenagers before on-duty officers arrived.

“The ACLU of Southern California is deeply disturbed by reports that an off-duty Los Angeles Police Department officer fired his gun during a dispute with teenagers he accused of walking on his property at his Anaheim residence,” Jennifer Rojas, community engagement and policy advocate at the ACLU of Southern California, said in a statement Wednesday.

“The ACLU calls on the LAPD to investigate the matter fully and take appropriate action in regard to the officer. It also calls on the Anaheim Police Department to provide a full explanation of why, in an altercation between the police officer and youths, the youths were arrested but not the officer who fired his gun,” she continued.

“An officer, even off-duty, has an obligation to follow the law and protect public safety, rather than threaten it. The LAPD officer’s actions on the video are grossly irresponsible,” Rojas said.

While no one was wounded or killed, the Anaheim episode comes on the heels of a number of protests in recent years across the country railing against how police officers have used force against people, particularly minorities. In many of these incidents, video recordings helped spur the outrage and anger. Anaheim police have said the videos going viral “do not depict the entire event.”

The officer has been placed on administrative leave, according to the Los Angeles Police Department, which said it is also investigating the shooting.

That investigation will focus on whether the officer’s “use of deadly force” complied with Los Angeles police procedures, the department said.

After the confrontation, two teenagers were arrested, including a 13-year-old was booked in Orange County for criminal threats and battery, police said. The 13-year-old was later released. A 15-year-old was arrested for assault and battery before being released to his parents.

Anaheim police did not identify the officer or the teenagers. Because the officer fired his gun, the incident is being investigated by Anaheim homicide detectives, and while the officer does not immediately face arrest, police say the investigation will be given to the district attorney’s office for a decision on possible charges.

“As a father and as a police chief, I too am disturbed by what I saw on the videos that were posted on the Internet,” Quezada, the police chief, said at a news briefing Thursday afternoon.

Quezada said that he has also seen body camera footage showing the first contacts with the people involved, “which have raised additional concerns as to what transpired.”

He said police hope to give their investigation to the Orange County district attorney to make a decision on charges in two weeks.

Anaheim city officials vowed a thorough investigation into the incident. “We as a city are left to figure all this out,” Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait said at the briefing Thursday. “Anaheim is committed to a full and impartial investigation.”

Tait said he has heard from people wondering why the teenagers were arrested and not the officer, and continued that he was wondering the same thing.

Speaking after Tait, Quezada said that while there was evidence the officer detained the teenager and fired his gun, “there was insufficient evidence at the time to prove the officer’s actions rose to the level of a criminal act.”

However, Quezada said that due to the ongoing investigation, authorities released the 13-year-old from juvenile hall. He added that criminal charges could still be brought against “any and all” people involved.

Anger quickly bubbled up in the community.

Anaheim police suggested they had received a flood of messages about the shooting, mentioning the ongoing investigation in a posting on Facebook and writing: “Calling and sending emails to APD voicing your displeasure will NOT impact the outcome.”

Police later posted another message with a special telephone number for people to comment on the shooting.

This was followed by the protests that emerged in Anaheim, with demonstrators seen marching near the officer’s home and moving on streets in the area.

Police said everyone arrested faced charges of misdemeanors, including failing to disperse.

After responding to the protests Wednesday night, police declared it an unlawful assembly, warning as the protest grew that “acts of violence and vandalism will not be tolerated.”

In a video recording of the confrontation and shooting that prompted the unrest, a crowd of people — many of them apparently teenagers, most of them wearing backpacks — can be seen standing around a residential sidewalk while an older, bald man in sunglasses is seen struggling with one young person.

The older man can be seen holding onto the younger person, who at one point in the recording says he is 13 and at another point says, “Let me go, for the last time.” As this continued, the gathered young people continued following the two of them across a home’s grassy yard.

After the younger boy says that his hand is going to be red, the older man tells him, “A lot of you’s going to be red because you’ve been resisting this whole time.”

The younger boy insists he was not and says he “didn’t do anything to hurt you.”

The older man can be heard saying the boy threatened to shoot him, which the younger boy in the recording denies.

While the gathered crowd continues watching, one other boy can be seen putting down his backpack on the ground and walking over, at which point he seems to try to break the two apart, although this part of the confrontation is obscured when the camera moves.

As the three of them are standing close together, another young boy in the crowd, still wearing his backpack, rushes over and slams his shoulder into the older man, pushing him toward a row of bushes. This boy quickly moves back and rejoins the others watching from a few feet away.

The older man appears to topple over the bushes, falling out of the frame, and the younger boy with whom he was struggling seems to be pulled along with him, while the boy who put down his backpack still holds on.

The older man regains his footing on the other side of the bushes but continues holding onto the younger boy and pulls at him across the bushes.

The older man continues pulling on the boy and swipes at the other young person appearing to pull the boy back. When this happens, the young person who is holding onto the boy seems to take a swing at the man before backing up and briefly holding his hands in a fighting pose.

At this point, another young person jumps over the bushes to get on the same side as the man, and another person can be seen walking up toward him, as well.

The man then lifts his shirt to show a firearm tucked into his pants, which he pulls out, causing some of the people — including the youth who knocked the man into the bushes — to quickly back away.

One of the people in the area says a sentiment others can be heard saying during the scuffle: “Hey, bro, chill, he’s a kid.”

The officer can then be heard firing one shot. Numerous people then turn and run, including a person recording the incident, who continues filming. One person can be heard saying, “What the fuck?”

A Police Cover-Up Breaks Down In Sacramento:

“The Execution Was Carried Out Last July By Sacramento Police Officers”

**They “Twice Attempted To Run Over Mann In Their Patrol Vehicle--And, When That Failed, Exited And Gunned Him Down, Firing 18 Times And Riddling Mann With 14 Bullets”
“Fuck This Guy,” Lozoya Can Be Heard Saying. “I’m Gonna Hit Him.” Tennis Responds: “Okay. Go For It”**

February 23, 2017 by Alex Moyle, Socialist Worker

For Joseph Mann, suffering a mental health crisis while Black and homeless on the streets of Sacramento proved to be a death sentence.

The execution was carried out last July by Sacramento police officers Randy Lozoya and John Tennis, who twice attempted to run over Mann in their patrol vehicle--and, when that failed, exited and gunned him down, firing 18 times and riddling Mann with 14 bullets.

Yet Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert has since cleared both officers of any wrongdoing.

That’s despite dash-cam video from the patrol car driven by Mann’s murderers, which captured their conversation leading up to his death. “Fuck this guy,” Lozoya can be heard saying. “I’m gonna hit him.” Tennis responds: “Okay. Go for it.”

After the attempts to run down Mann failed, one of the officer says, “We’ll get him,” before both exit the vehicle and murder him. The tape ends with the sound of Mann’s death agony.

Before police were forced to release video footage, the original police account offered to the Sacramento Bee and to Joseph Mann’s family portrayed the events as the heroic actions of two veteran officers defending their own lives and the safety of bystanders.

“Mann turned toward them, still armed with the knife,” according to the initial Bee account. “It was then that two officers, fearing for their lives and worried he might hurt citizens in the area, fired their service weapons hitting Mann ‘multiple times,’ according to police.”

Robert Mann, the brother of the victim, has been raising questions since right after the killing.

The Mann family demanded the release of the dash-cam video for months, but their pleas were ignored by Chief Sam Somers Jr. and the Sacramento Police Department.

“They lied to me flat out,” Mann told reporters. “They told me my brother was aggressive, he was coming at officers and they had no time to make any other decision but to shoot my brother.”

It’s not surprising that Sacramento police ignored the Mann family’s repeated requests to release or at least show them the video of their loved one’s death. Given the damning evidence it contained and the blatant lies initially offered to the press, it seems clear that the department never intended to release the footage at all.

It only came to light after the Sacramento Bee obtained surveillance footage from a private citizen that conclusively contradicted fabricated police account of the slaying.

Robert Mann poignantly expressed his rage at the killing and the cover-up that followed:

“These officers need to be tried with murder. They don’t need administrative leave, they need to be incarcerated immediately. All weapons need to be taken from these animals. Their mentality is one of just being killers, and I question how many other cases...that they’ve gotten away with because there was no video camera, there was no proof.”

Other officers who arrived on the scene before Lozoya and Tennis were widely praised for trying to de-escalate the situation, in contrast to the brazen approach of their trigger-happy colleagues. One of these officers can be heard yelling, “Jesus fucking Christ!” immediately after the murder.

But whatever regrets the “good” officers felt at Mann’s killing, they didn’t feel compelled to rat on Lazoya and Tennis for murdering a fleeing man right before their eyes.

Police Chief Somers, widely regarded as a “good” cop, knew the truth about the killing from the outset, and he lied, straight-faced, to the press, the City Council and the victim’s family. The blue wall of silence would have easily stood up if the Bee hadn’t obtained the surveillance video.

And now, despite the truth being known, there have still not been any real consequences for the Sacramento Police Department.

Community pressure arising from the Mann’s killing was enough to lead to Somers’ early retirement (with full pension) in December, but the officers who pulled the trigger were

never indicted, fired, suspended or even placed on leave, instead having merely been placed on modified duty. They have since been cleared of all criminal wrongdoing by the district attorney.

The city agreed to a \$719,000 settlement with the Mann family, but on the condition of admitting no liability.

“40-Year-Old Dazion Flenaugh Was Shot Dead After Suffering A Breakdown In The Back Seat Of A Police Cruiser”

Under the pressure from community activists, the Sacramento City Council last November passed a series of police reform measures.

A civilian oversight commission created by the City Council is toothless: It can't access the confidential personnel records of officers; it has only advisory/review powers; it can't directly investigate misconduct or impose discipline; and the City Council is free to ignore its requests for investigations.

The new measures also requires police to release video to the public in officer-involved fatalities within 30 days, but there is a glaring loophole--the police are required to release video so long as it “does not hamper, impede or taint” an investigation.

Any idea that the Mann case was an aberration evaporated after the release of the findings of an investigation into the killing of another Black, homeless and mentally ill man by Sacramento Police last April. The officers involved were, of course, cleared of wrongdoing, but the similarities point to systemic issues.

In this incident, 40-year-old Dazion Flenaugh was shot dead after suffering a breakdown in the back seat of a police cruiser.

Police had informed Flenaugh that he would just be given a ride, but he panicked when he was locked in the back of a police cruiser and left there. On the police cruiser camera, Flenaugh can be heard saying “This is what I get for fuckin’ with the police...I’m dead.” He can be seen writhing in an attempt to get out of the vehicle.

Officer Paul Fong responded to Flenaugh’s panic by opening the door and demanding “What are you doing, freak?” Flenaugh bolted, leading police on a chase through the surrounding neighborhood. When a bystander asked what was happening, Fong responded, “There’s some nut--tweak--just freaking out. He’s back there somewhere. If you see him, just hit him with a baseball bat a couple times. That’ll mellow him out.”

According to police, Flenaugh ran through the neighborhood, hopping fences, breaking into homes and collecting knives along the way. The cops released footage purportedly showing Flenaugh swinging a pickaxe at a door. The official account of the shooting reads almost identically to the story initially told about Mann: According to police, Flenaugh, armed with knives, charged three officers, who, fearing for their lives, opened fire.

Dazion’s brother Damon Flenaugh gave voice to the justifiable skepticism about the police account:

“I believe that they were absolute negligent in how they dealt with my brother. I really don’t know what made him snap like that, but I know his life. There’s a lot of pressure being homeless and always being harassed all the time, so he probably just snapped. And I would really have liked the cops to be cops that day, and seen that my brother needed help, not killing.”

Officials have acknowledged that footage of the Flenaugh pursuit was withheld from the public, and they claim that no video of the shooting itself exists.

Upon learning this, Damon Flenaugh responded, “They just keep lying to us. They are not trustworthy and we are supposed to trust them with our lives. Fundamentally, how does that work? You are not building any faith in the people.”

The killings of Mann and Flenaugh come amid a context of rising rents, gentrification and an acute homelessness crisis in Sacramento.

With the hyper-gentrification of the San Francisco Bay Area driving more people into the Central Valley, displacement is rapidly increasing in Sacramento, which was named by numerous media outlets as one of the country’s hottest housing markets this year.

Thousands already live on the streets in the capital city of the richest state in the country, and the number is growing. Worse, the death toll among the homeless is on the rise--in 2016, the bodies of 81 homeless people were found around the city.

In spite of this, a plan to build an emergency tent city that could save the lives of the most vulnerable was flatly rejected by the City Council. And a recent decision to open a temporary emergency shelter with room for about 40 people was made only after two homeless people died on the grounds of City Hall in the course of a week.

As we’ve seen around the country, racist police violence and gentrification go hand in hand. It’s a telling statement about a liberal, Democratic-run city that its political leaders are willing to spend endless sums on a violent, racist police force, but not on measures that would meet basic human needs.

As far as the Sacramento Police Department was concerned, Joseph Mann and Dazion Flenaugh had three strikes against them from the start: They were Black, homeless and mentally ill. Their murders and the ensuing attempted cover-ups demonstrate the irredeemable rottenness of the department, from officers on the street up to the Chief of Police.

New Mayor Darrel Steinberg’s proposal to spend more time and money on police training is no solution. The Sacramento Police Department needs to be defunded and those funds reallocated to mental health, social services, emergency shelters for the homeless and long-term affordable housing--things that would help people, instead of killing them.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

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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

Marxists know that democracy does *not* abolish class oppression. It only makes the class struggle more direct, wider, more open and pronounced, and that is what we need. The fuller the freedom of divorce, the clearer will women see that the source of their “domestic slavery” is capitalism, not lack of rights.

The more democratic the system of government, the clearer will the workers see that the root evil is capitalism, not lack of rights.

The fuller national equality (and it is *not* complete without freedom of secession), the clearer will the workers of the oppressed nations see that the cause of their oppression is capitalism, not lack of rights, etc.

-- V. I. Lenin, Collected Works, 4th English Edition; Vol. 23

Trump's Magnificent Accomplishment; He Really Has Made American Great Again

Feb 20, 2017 Face Book via David McReynolds

As seen on Facebook:

"I can't believe I'm saying this, but it looks like Trump is actually making America great again. Just look at the progress made since the election:

1. Unprecedented levels of ongoing civic engagement.
2. Millions of Americans now know who their state and federal representatives are without having to google.
3. Millions of Americans are exercising more. They're holding signs and marching every week....
4. Alec Baldwin is great again. Everyone's forgotten he's kind of a jerk.
5. The Postal Service is enjoying the influx cash due to stamps purchased by millions of people for letter and postcard campaigns.
6. Likewise, the pharmaceutical industry is enjoying record growth in sales of anti-depressants.
7. Millions of Americans now know how to call their elected officials and know exactly what to say to be effective.
8. Footage of town hall meetings is now entertaining.
9. Tens of millions of people are now correctly spelling words like emoluments, narcissist, fascist, misogynist, holocaust and cognitive dissonance.
10. Everyone knows more about the rise of Hitler than they did last year.
11. Everyone knows more about legislation, branches of power and how checks and balances work.
12. Marginalized groups are experiencing a surge in white allies.
13. White people in record numbers have just learned that racism is not dead.

14. White people in record numbers also finally understand that Obamacare IS the Affordable Care Act.
 15. Stephen Colbert's "Late Night" finally gained the elusive #1 spot in late night talk shows, and Seth Meyers is finding his footing as today's Jon Stewart.
 16. "Mike Pence" has donated millions of dollars to Planned Parenthood since Nov. 9th.
 17. Melissa FREAKING McCarthy.
 18. Travel ban protesters put \$24 million into ACLU coffers in just 48 hours, enabling them to hire 200 more attorneys. Lawyers are now heroes.
 19. As people seek veracity in their news sources, respected news outlets are happily reporting a substantial increase in subscriptions, a boon to a struggling industry vital to our democracy.
 20. Live streaming court cases and congressional sessions are now as popular as the Kardashians.
 21. Massive cleanup of facebook friend lists.
 22. People are reading classic literature again. Sales of George Orwell's "1984" increased by 10,000% after the inauguration. (Yes, that is true. 10,000%. 9th grade Lit teachers all over the country are now rock stars.)
 23. More than ever before, Americans are aware that education is important. Like, super important.
 24. Now, more than any time in history, everyone believes that anyone can be President. Seriously, anyone." - Susan Keller
-

Pentagon Leaders Suspect Trump's Understanding Of Military Mostly Based On 1980's Action Movies

Feb 20, 2017 By Maxwell McPoyle, The Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON — Senior Pentagon officials have privately expressed suspicions that President Donald Trump's understanding of military affairs may largely be based on 1980's action films, sources confirmed.

Trump reportedly called the Pentagon last week to inquire about a recently-sighted Russian spy ship off the East Coast, and asked whether it was powered by a top-secret naval propulsion system which its disillusioned captain may secretly intend to deliver to the United States in a brazen act of defection.

The call was the latest in a string of statements from Trump since January that suggest his military policies may align with various national security experts, such as Dutch from “Predator,” and Maj. Scott McCoy from “Delta Force.”

Just days after he took office, the commander-in-chief interrupted a summary of Chinese drone capabilities to ask whether the US military was capable of sending a single highly-trained serviceman back in time to “stop all this cybercomputer stuff” in the event that “it ever gets out of control.”

Reports have also surfaced that Trump recently succeeded in getting Defense Secretary Jim Mattis to concede that, should a U.S. pilot be captured by hostile forces in the Middle East, a response named Operation IRON EAGLE would “really let (the enemy) know we mean business.”

Sources say that over the weekend Trump asked Secretary of the Army Robert Speer whether the service maintained a list of disgraced former Special Forces soldiers — “tough hombres who got slammed for doing the right thing,” according to one source — who could be called up for an off-the-books, near-suicide mission deep into enemy territory if necessary.

“I was just ordered to provide an assessment of our ability to recruit high school students as a stay-behind guerilla force in the event of a foreign airborne invasion of Colorado,” said one Army colonel.

ANNIVERSARIES

February 25, 2011: The Uprising Spreads



Day of Rage in Taiz, Yemen

A Day of Rage saw demonstrations across the Middle East. Protesters in Iraq, Yemen, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, and Bahrain showed their support variously for an end to corruption and income inequality, political reform and better public services, and the replacement of long-running dictatorships with democratic regimes.

February 25, 1968: Anniversary Of Memorable Bullshit: A General Cuts His Throat With His Tongue



Vietnam commander Gen. William Westmoreland meeting with Pres. Lyndon Johnson

Carl Bunin Peace History Feb 25-March 2

Discussing the war capacity of North Vietnam, a country that had been fighting for its independence for 23 years and had just staged the massive, successful Tet Offensive, U.S. General William C. Westmoreland stated, "I do not believe Hanoi can hold up under a long war."

He was replaced as commander in Vietnam less than four months later.

February 26, 1984: Reagan Withdraws U.S. Troops After Saying To Do So "Means The End Of Lebanon" "There Was No Way That We Could Really Contribute To The Original Mission By Staying There As A Target"



[Thanks to Carl Bunin Peace History Feb 25-March 2]

The last of the 1400 peacekeeping troops Pres. Ronald Reagan had sent to the Lebanese capital of Beirut were evacuated. The troops were part of an international force sent to deal with the Lebanese civil war.

The president withdrew almost all American troops following the deaths of 241 Marines and 58 French paratroopers in a suicide truck bombing carried out four months earlier by combined forces of Islamic Jihad and Hizbollah.

France withdrew its troops as well.

Three weeks earlier, Reagan had told the Wall Street Journal, “As long as there is a chance for peace, the mission remains the same. If we get out, that means the end of Lebanon.” In a barb directed at House Speaker Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill Jr. (D-Massachusetts), Reagan had said, “He may be ready to surrender, but I’m not.”

BBC News: On This Day

American forces have withdrawn almost all of their troops from the Lebanese capital, Beirut. About 1,000 US Marines left the coast beside the international airport as Shi’ite militiamen arrived in jeeps and armoured vehicles to take over.

US President Ronald Reagan ordered military personnel to begin pulling out of the area over a week ago following a recent upsurge in terrorist attacks.

“Once the terrorist attacks started there was no way that we could really contribute to the original mission by staying there as a target just bunkering down and waiting for further attacks,” he said.

The US Marines were sent in 18 months ago to help the Lebanese administration but as the last troops pulled out there was no official government delegation present to see them off. Instead, Insurgents riding motorcycles watched without emotion as US military helicopters airlifted the last front line troops to warships off the Lebanese coast.

STUCK ON STUPID

Stupid Of The Year So Far: Muhammad Ali Jr. And His Mother Detained By Immigration Officials At Fla. Airport “Pulled Aside While Going Through Customs Because Of Arabic- Sounding Names” “Where Did You Get Your Name From?” And “Are You Muslim?”

Feb. 24, 2017 by Danielle Lerner, The (Louisville) Courier-Journal

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The son of legendary boxer Muhammad Ali was detained for hours by immigration officials earlier this month at a Florida airport, according to a family friend.

Muhammad Ali Jr., 44, and his mother, Khalilah Camacho-Ali, the first wife of Muhammad Ali, were arriving at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport on Feb. 7 after returning from speaking at a Black History Month event in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

They were pulled aside while going through customs because of their Arabic-sounding names, according to family friend and lawyer Chris Mancini.

Immigration officials let Camacho-Ali go after she showed them a photo of herself with her ex-husband, but her son did not have such a photo and wasn't as lucky.

Mancini said officials held and questioned Ali Jr. for nearly two hours, repeatedly asking him, “Where did you get your name from?” and “Are you Muslim?”

When Ali Jr. responded that yes, he is a Muslim, the officers kept questioning him about his religion and where he was born. Ali Jr. was born in Philadelphia in 1972 and holds a U.S. passport.

Reached for comment via email Friday, a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection wrote, "Due to the restrictions of the Privacy Act, U.S. Customs and Border Protection cannot discuss individual travelers; however, all international travelers arriving in the U.S. are subject to CBP inspection."

The line of questioning is indicative of profiling and designed to produce answers that corroborate what officials want to hear, Mancini said. Neither Camacho-Ali nor Ali Jr. have ever been subjected to detainment before, despite extensive global travel experience, he said.

"To the Ali family, it's crystal clear that this is directly linked to Mr. Trump's efforts to ban Muslims from the United States," Mancini said, referring to President Trump's executive order signed Jan. 27 that instituted a ban for citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries.

Camacho-Ali and Ali Jr. live in Deerfield Beach, Fla., a 20-minute drive from the airport. While Ali Jr. was detained, Camacho-Ali ran around the airport asking, "Where's my son?" and begging for help, according to Mancini. Because incidents involving customs officials are considered to be on federal soil, local police had no jurisdiction to help her.

Ali Jr. was eventually released two hours later, and the family contacted Mancini the following day.

Mancini said he and the Ali family are contemplating filing a federal lawsuit and are currently trying to find out how many other people have been subjected to the same treatment as Ali Jr.

"Imagine walking into an airport and being asked about your religion," he said. "This is classic customs profiling."

MORE:

U.S. Customs Fools Detain And Nearly Deports French Holocaust Historian

2.26.17

Henry Rousso, a prominent French and Holocaust historian, was detained for hours at George Bush Intercontinental Airport Wednesday, Rousso said.

He was nearly deported, he said on Twitter. Rousso was legally traveling to the United States as a French citizen.

France is not one of the countries recently targeted by President Donald Trump's controversial travel ban.

"I have been detained 10 hours at Houston Airport about to be deported," he wrote.

"The officer who arrested me was 'inexperienced.'"

Rouso was traveling to Texas A&M to participate in a symposium, featuring the chancellor of the Texas A&M system and others on a number of topics.

He was released after Michael Young, Texas A&M President, called the director of the Immigrant Rights Clinic Fatma Marouf, according to reporting by Bryan newspaper The Eagle.

His lecture was to be on "Writing on the Dark Side of the Recent Past."

"In an era where opinions, "post-truth," and so-called democratization of knowledge are predominant, they should foster a reliable conception of how to write about recent issues," his panel description reads.

A call for comment from customs officials was not immediately returned.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



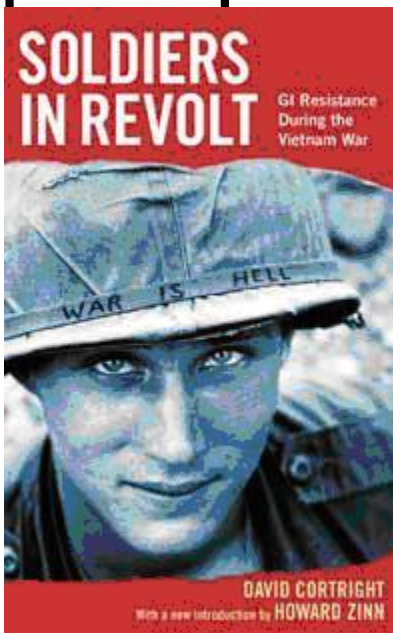
YOUR INVITATION:

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY: A Vietnam Veteran Describes The Strategy And Tactics Used By Troops To Stop An Imperial War



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT

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