

Military Resistance 15H3



AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Taliban Overruns District In Afghan Northwest

August 14th, 2017 by Bill Roggio, The Long War Journal. [Excerpts] Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of FDD's Long War Journal.

The Afghan Taliban has again retaken control of the district of Ghormach in Faryab province. The remote district has changed hands twice in less than two years.

From the Taliban statement at Voice of Jihad:

"Amid ongoing 'Operation Mansouri', Mujahideen launched coordinated assaults on Ghormach district administration center, police headquarter and all the surroundings defensive check posts overnight.

"Attacks of heavy and light arms that lasted intensively till midday today, overrunning 13 defensive check posts, police headquarter and district center entirely, inflicting serious tolls to enemy as well as seizing a sizable amount of war spoils.

“Enemy is currently under tight besiege of Mujahideen in a military base at a distance of 4 kilometers from the said district center.”

The district chief of police is denying Ghormach fell to the Taliban, but that is likely because Afghan forces made a “tactical retreat” to a base outside the district center. From TOLONews:

“Ghormach district of Faryab province fallen to the Taliban on Sunday, a source told TOLONews.

“Faryab’s police chief Dilwar Shah Dilawar denied the development but said security forces had made a tactical retreat from the district.

“Dilawar said that clashes between security forces and the Taliban started in the district on Saturday night and are ongoing.

“He also said so far there have been no reports of casualties”

Taliban Kill 5 Police In Southern Afghanistan

Aug 19 AP

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

An Afghan official says the Taliban attacked a police checkpoint in the southern Helmand province, killing five Afghan police.

Gen. Abdul Ghafar Safi, the provincial police chief, says six other policemen were wounded in the attack late Friday in Nawa district, where clashes were still underway early Saturday.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yusouf Ahmadi claimed responsibility for the attack.

80 Afghan Soldiers Under Siege In Northern Province

Aug 19, 2017 ANI

Kabul

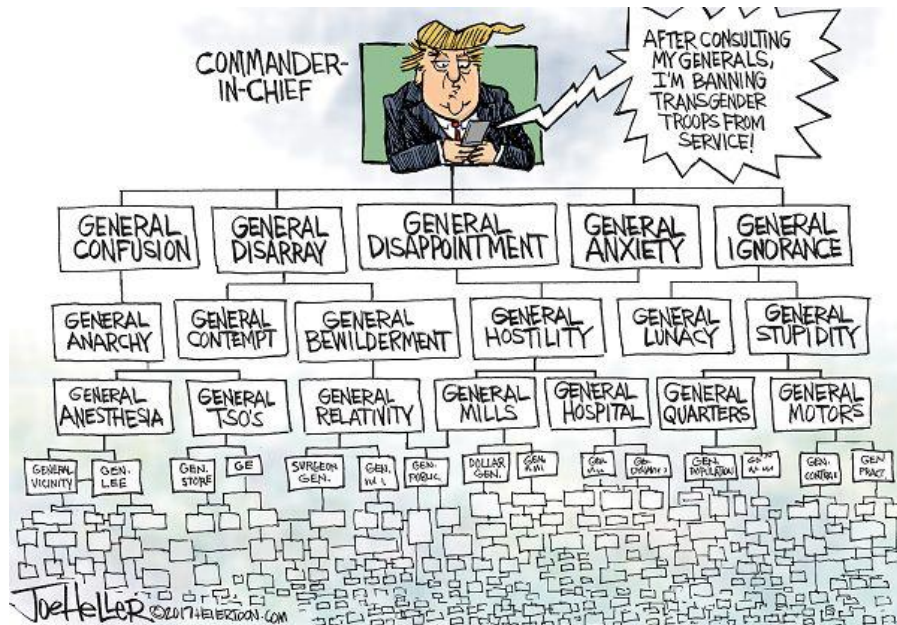
At least 80 soldiers of Afghanistan National Army are under siege by insurgents since 20 days in Faryab province of Afghanistan, reports Tolo News.

Captain Farid, commander of Shaheen Military Corps in Faryab, said the soldiers' location is in Chinaee Camp in Ghormach district. Two of the soldiers were injured 10 days ago, but their injuries have not been treated well.

"Soldiers have not received ammunition so far and if they do not receive support, they will be arrested by the Taliban," he added.

Taliban insurgents have taken over the center of Ghormach district.

MILITARY NEWS



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "These are the same generals war after war after war."]

House Rejects Plan To Let VA Doctors Talk About Marijuana: "VA Medical Providers Are Prohibited From Discussing Or Recommending Medical Marijuana As A Treatment

Option With Veterans, Even If They Live In A State Where The Drug Is Legal”

July 26 By: Leo Shane III, Army Times

WASHINGTON — House Republican leaders on Tuesday ended marijuana supporters hopes for a floor debate on allowing veterans to talk about using cannabis to treat a variety of ailments with their Veterans Affairs doctors.

The bipartisan proposal, submitted as an amendment to a broader appropriations bill set for a full chamber vote later this week, was rejected by the House Rules Committee. In a statement, sponsor Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., criticized the decision.

“All we want is equal treatment for our wounded warriors,” he said. “This provision overwhelmingly passed on the House floor last year and bipartisan support has only grown. It’s outrageous that the Rules Committee won’t even allow a vote for our veterans.

“They deserve better. They deserve compassion.”

Under current law, VA medical providers are prohibited from discussing or recommending medical marijuana as a treatment option with veterans, even if they live in a state where the drug is legal.

Earlier this month, Senate appropriators included language overturning that ban in their fiscal 2018 budget plans for VA. The House passed a similar plan last year by a 233-189 vote, and supporters were hopeful for a similar result this year.

But leadership instead tossed out the amendment, ending the debate.

The issue comes at a complicated time for marijuana advocates. The drug is currently legal for medical use in 29 states and for recreational use in eight. But it’s still classified as a dangerous addictive with “no accepted medical use” by the federal government, a distinction that has severely limited scientific research on the substance.

Advocates have pointed to a host of limited and international studies lauding cannabis for pain management. Last year, officials from the American Legion adopted a resolution supporting expanded research for its potential benefits to veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and other wounds of war.

So far, the White House has given no indication it plans to change the federal stance on marijuana. Attorney General Jeff Sessions in public remarks has promised increase scrutiny on states that allow its legal sale, and repeated the belief that the drug has no medicinal value.

VA Secretary David Shulkin has been softer in his approach, saying he would be open to reviewing whether the substance has benefits for veterans.

Blumenauer promised to continue his legislative fight. His proposal was co-sponsored by nine Republicans and eight Democrats, but faces a difficult legislative path as a stand-alone measure in the House.

“Given that veterans are more likely to commit suicide or die from opiate overdoses than civilians, our fight to provide them safer alternatives won’t stop here,” Blumenauer said. “We have stronger support in the House and Senate than ever before, and we will keep advocating for a more rational approach.”

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

He is whipped oftenest, who is whipped easiest.
-- Frederick Douglass; My Bondage And My Freedom

Simplicity



Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: August 03, 2017
Subject: Simplicity

Simplicity

**As in American History,
the only good Indian is
a dead Indian.**

**Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
W A R ---> Wealthy Are Richer**

**History is not the past, history is
the present. We carry our history
with us. To think otherwise is
criminal.
James Baldwin**

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
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO: BOOK REVIEW (A Horrified Critic's Lament)

From: Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Review
Date: Aug 20, 2017

They're at it again! Yes, those two troublemakers, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, who've punished and battered treasured thoughts and desperately-held perception for years, have now reappeared in full force, this time with some pamphlet called "The Communist Manifesto" of all things.

Oh, they've provoked and needled before all right, the troublesome two with deep pockets of wit and insight, but this time, I submit, they've gone too far.

Imagine tumbling, before our very eyes, our most sacred trust and hard earned comforts; our daily bread of steadfast reliance upon deeply held beliefs that daily add to our carefully cultivated history. Where does it all end I ask you?

Here it is 1848 and they show no signs of stopping they don't.

Go ahead, select any reference, any topic and they attack it – the family you say? Not only the centerpiece of sanity but the one unit most of us accused "bourgeois" or even "petty bourgeois" (whatever they mean) don't even want to think about. The crust of these irreverent interlopers.

All right, they're educated well enough. I'll even grant you dedicated if you like. Determined (why not?) Inexhaustible (unfortunately). Logical even? OK, goddammit, but don't tell me we have to swallow EVERYTHING they say.

This time they take up their "class oriented" version of history as weapon challenging every damn fact in sight. Now, I ask you: are we supposed to rewrite history? Is there a

new order on the horizon as they more than imply? Heaven save us from this Darwinian claptrap.

What the hell is one supposed to do when one of them says “workingmen have no country” clearly implying there are NO national borders to overcome but superseded instead by some new organization of thought and loyalty exclusive to people just because they work for a living?

What kind of map are these guys reading?

It’s a helluva future pointed to all by themselves. Oh, I forgot. They magnanimously give building block credit(s) to others: people named Fourier, Proudhon and Adam whathisname too. There’s even a few more they claim clear the forest somewhat. It’s as though they’re preparing some kind of stew we’d all be ready to consume or else the table will turn over on itself!

This does not turn out to be pre-bedtime reading at all. No sir. It’s as though M&E are initiating some new-fangled library or something using themselves as paving stones for the rest of the uninitiated to step on toward a future nobody in his right mind would consider. Someone might think they’re turning themselves into a conduit of sacrifice for things to come. The cheek of it all.

I tell you this reviewer was beaten to a pulp by the time they proclaimed “working men of all countries unite!”

I know, I know. There are usually mountains of research, discussion and what have you accumulated before they publish.

And Engels has the temerity to tell us they were commissioned to do this by some, obviously, misled bunch of political malcontents who probably met in a cellar somewhere and need new direction in thought just for openers. But I think they should at least take the temperature of a good neighborhood before they go into a bad one and get opinions that might drive them to these ridiculous “class” opinions that get under people’s skin.

Revolution indeed.

Advisory:

Be warned those who’ve pre-purchased this “pamphlet” - it’s not your daily horoscope by any means. These two may lead you places you never dreamed of. There are those who refer to the process as “trans-formative.” You may even (careful!) find yourself using words like “proletariat” or, heaven forbid, “lumpen.” Can you imagine? And the way they put things. Just who the hell do they think they are?

Furthermore, Engels gives Marx most of the credit for this untimely upheaval that may very well spread to all kinds of discontented corners once it’s said and done.

Be warned faithful readers, they tell you “a specter is haunting Europe” and they really mean it.

“What Are, Generally Speaking, The Characteristics Of A Revolutionary Situation?”

Comment: T

Whatever you may think of the politics of this writer, he was rather skilled at figuring out when a revolutionary situation was present:

He describes the essential ingredients:

- 1. A ruling class split and at war within itself about what to do: “a crack through which the dissatisfaction and the revolt of the oppressed classes burst forth”**
- 2. An economic crisis hammering the working class**
- 3. A war that breaks the passivity of “peacetime” politics.**
- 4. He might have added, had this been written later, a ruling class so blind and stupid it can’t conceive of a whole population rising in revolution against it, and an army happy to join the mass movement from below.**

1915, Excerpts from Collapse Of The Second International & IMPERIALISM AND SOCIALISM IN ITALY, Kommunist, Nos. 1.2, 1915, By V. I. Ulyanov. [The writer used the pen name “Lenin” to keep the government from terrorizing his family. Excerpts]

For a Marxist there is no doubt that a revolution is impossible without a revolutionary situation; furthermore, we know that not every revolutionary situation leads to revolution.

What are, generally speaking, the characteristics of a revolutionary situation?

We can hardly be mistaken when we indicate the following three outstanding signs:

(1) it is impossible for the ruling classes to maintain their power unchanged; there is a crisis “higher up,” taking one form or another; there is a crisis in the policy of the ruling class; as a result, there appears a crack through which the dissatisfaction and the revolt of the oppressed classes burst forth.

If a revolution is to take place it is necessary that “one is incapable up above” to continue in the old way;

(2) the wants and sufferings of the oppressed classes become more acute than usual;

(3) in consequence of the above causes, there is a considerable increase in the activity of the masses who in “peace time” allow themselves to be robbed without protest, but in stormy times are drawn both by the circumstances of the crises and by the “higher-ups” themselves into independent historic action.

Without these objective changes, which are independent not only of the will of separate groups and parties but even of separate classes, a revolution, as a rule, is impossible.

The co-existence of all these objective changes is called a revolutionary situation.

This situation existed in 1905 in Russia and in all the periods of revolution in the West, but it also existed in the seventh decade of the last century in Germany; it existed in 1859, 1861 and in 1879-1880 in Russia, though there was no revolution in these latter instances.

Why?

Because a revolution emerges not out of every revolutionary situation, but out of such situations where, to the above-mentioned objective changes, subjective ones are added, namely, the ability of the revolutionary classes to carry out revolutionary mass actions strong enough to break (or to undermine) the old government, it being the rule that never, not even in a period of crises, does a government “fall” of itself without being “helped to fall.”

“Much Has Been Left In The World That Must Be Destroyed By Fire And Iron For The Liberation Of The Working Class”

Take the present army. It is one of the good examples of organisation. This organisation is good only because it is flexible; at the same time it knows how to give to millions of people one uniform will.

Today these millions are in their homes in various parts of the country. Tomorrow a call for mobilization is issued, and they gather at the appointed centres. Today they lie in the trenches, sometimes for months at a stretch; tomorrow they are led into battle in another formation.

Today they perform marvels, hiding themselves from bullets and shrapnel; tomorrow they do marvels in open combat. Today their advance detachments place mines under the ground; tomorrow they move dozens of miles according to the advice of flyers above ground.

We call it organisation when, in the pursuit of one aim, animated by one will, millions change the forms of their intercourse and their actions, change the place and the method of their activities, change the weapons and armaments in accordance with changing conditions and the vicissitudes of the struggle.

The same holds true about the fight of the working class against the bourgeoisie.

Today there is no revolutionary situation apparent; there are no such conditions as would cause ferment among the masses or heighten their activities; today you are given an election ballot - take it.

Understand how to organise for it, to hit your enemies with it, and not to place men in soft parliamentary berths who cling to their seat in fear of prison.

Tomorrow you are deprived of the election ballot, you are given a rifle and a splendid machine gun equipped according to the last word of machine technique: take this weapon of death and destruction, do not listen to the sentimental whiners who are afraid of war.

Much has been left in the world that must be destroyed by fire and iron for the liberation of the working class.

And if bitterness and despair grow in the masses, if a revolutionary situation is at hand, prepare to organise new organisations and utilize these so useful weapons of death and destruction against your own government and your bourgeoisie. .

This is not easy, to be sure.

It will demand difficult preparatory activities. It will demand grave sacrifices.

This is a new species of organisation and struggle that one must learn, and learning is never done without errors and defeats.

The relation of this species of class struggle to participation in elections is the same as storming a fortress is to maneuvering, marching, or lying in the trenches.

This species of struggle is placed on the order of the day in history very infrequently, but, its significance and its consequences are felt for decades.

Single days when such methods can and must be put on the programme of struggle are equal to scores of years of other historic epochs.

The question has been put squarely, and one cannot fail to recognise that the European War has been of enormous use for humanity in that it actually has placed the question squarely before hundreds of millions of people of various nationalities: either defend, with, rifle or pen, directly or indirectly, in whatever form it may be, the great-nation and national privileges, in general, as well as the prerogative or the pretensions of "our" bourgeoisie, that is to say, either be its adherent and lackey, or utilize every struggle, particularly the clash of arms for great-nation privileges, to unmask and overthrow every government, in the first place our own, by means of the revolutionary action of an internationally united proletariat.

There is no middle road; in other words, the attempt to take a middle position means, in reality, covertly to join the imperialist bourgeoisie.

Army Command & General Staff College Grads Celebrate Perfect Record Of Losing Wars: “Our Storied Institution Will Continue To Lead The Charge In Senior Officer Education And Produce Graduates To Drive Our Nation Into Foreign Quagmires For Decades To Come”

August 14, 2017 by Maxx Butthurt, The Duffle Blog

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kansas — The Commandant of the Army’s Command and General Staff College last week celebrated the school’s 72-year record of losing wars, sources confirmed today.

“The record of the late 20th century shows that our curriculum produces consistent results over the decades, allowing graduates of our fine program to lose diverse conflicts across the globe, from jungles in southeast Asia to the deserts of the Middle East and the Horn of Africa,” Lt. Gen. Michael Lundy said, according to transcripts of the speech.

As one of the Army’s oldest institutions, it has produced such notable graduates as Norman Schwarzkopf, Creighton Abrams, Douglas MacArthur, and Dwight Eisenhower.

“CGSC has been teaching mid-level and general grade officers for over a century that innovation is the enemy of logic, and career success can only be achieved through rote memorization of dogma and the proselytization of such throughout the force,” Lundy said.

“Could you imagine the chaos our military would face if we had thousands of individual officers each coming up with unique or scenario-specific tactics each time we started another war? Madness!”

Lundy went on to highlight the nearly 16-year-long conflict in Afghanistan, proudly declaring that “CGSC grads have been at the helm of America’s longest war since the beginning.”

After a final standing ovation from the faculty and alumnus in attendance, Lundy tearfully concluded his remarks with the pledge that “our storied institution will continue to lead the charge in senior officer education and produce graduates to drive our nation into foreign quagmires for decades to come.”

Lundy was asked about the Persian Gulf and Grenada campaigns, according to two attendees. Despite being visibly angered, the commandant said that “we don’t count any conflict that begins and ends in the same fiscal year.”

ANNIVERSARIES

August 1876: Historic Betrayal



Lakota Sioux watch as their Black Hills are invaded. Painting by Howard Terpning

Carl Bunin Peace History

August 15, 1876:

Congress passed a law to remove the Lakota Sioux and their allies from the Black Hills country of South Dakota after gold was found there. Often referred to as the “starve or sell” bill, it provided that no further appropriations would be made for 1868 Treaty-guaranteed rations for the Sioux unless they gave up their sacred Black Hills, or Paha Sapa. That treaty had granted them the territory and hunting rights in exchange for peace.

[Excerpts]

STATEMENT OF MARIO GONZALEZ, ATTORNEY, CHEYENNE RIVER AND PINE RIDGE WOUNDED KNEE SURVIVORS’ ASSOCIATIONS AND OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE, SUPPORTING PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL AND HISTORIC SITE TO COMMEMORATE THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 1890 INDIAN MASSACRE AT WOUNDED KNEE CREEK, SOUTH DAKOTA, IN THE HEARING OF

SEPTEMBER 25, 1990, BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
U.S. SENATE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

[Excerpts]

Mr. Chairman, and honorable Members of the Committee, my name is Mario Gonzalez. I am an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and a descendant of Chief Lip's Band. I am appearing here today as the attorney for the Wounded Knee Survivors' Associations and the Oglala Sioux Tribe. I am honored to appear before the Committee to discuss events surrounding the December 29, 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre.

I am also related by blood to some of the victims and survivors of the massacre. Dewey Beard, the last survivor of the Battle of the Little Bighorn and an 1890 Massacre survivor, was a first cousin to my great-great-grandmother, Rattling Hawk. Dewey's real mother, Seen By Her Nation, and my great-great-grandmother, Jealous Of Her, were sisters.

One cannot understand what happened at Wounded Knee without understanding something about the Sioux people and their history.

The term "Sioux" should be distinguished from the word "Siouan," which refers to a linguistic stock that the Sioux are a part of. Other Siouan peoples include such Tribes as the Mandan, Omaha, Otoe, Winnebago and Osage. The Sioux refer to themselves as "Lakota," "Dakota," or "Nakota," depending on whether the "L," "D" or "N" dialect is used.

It is also important to understand that the term "Sioux Nation" has been used to refer to different entities at different times. According to the Indian Claims Commission, the Sioux people were divided into seven divisions:

Mdewakantons
Sissetons
Wahpakootas
Wahpetons
Yanktonais
Yanktons
Tetons

The Mdewakantons, Sissetons, Wahpakootas, and Wahpetons, or eastern Sioux, are sometimes referred to as "Santee" or "Mississippi" Sioux and speak with the "D" dialect. The Yanktonais also speak with the "D" dialect. The Yanktons speak with the "N" dialect and the Tetons with the "L" dialect.

The Tetons, or the western Sioux, were sub-divided into seven bands:

Blackfeet
Brule
Hunkpapa
Minneconjou
Oglala
Saris Arc (No Bows)
Two Kettle

The Teton Bands held aboriginal title to a vast territory west of the Missouri River in what are now the States of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. Much of this territory was held jointly with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nations. The Big Horn Mountains were the western boundary. The Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers were the northern boundary. The Republican River was the southern boundary.

In 1874 the United States Army planned and undertook a military expedition into the Black Hills portion of the Great Sioux Reservation. The expedition was led by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, who sent out glowing reports of gold.

This led to an invasion of the Hills by white miners and settlers in violation of the 1868 Treaty and created intense pressure on Congress to open the Hills for settlement. The influx of miners and settlers into the Hills increased when President Grant refused to enforce the Treaty and remove these trespassers. In the winter of 1875 and 1876, most of the Sioux were residing on the Great Sioux Reservation, keeping the peace they promised to maintain under the 1868 Treaty.

Others were exercising their hunting rights with their Cheyenne and Arapahoe allies near the Big Horn Mountains. Contrary to the terms of the Treaty, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs sent instructions to the hunting parties that if they did not return to the Great Sioux Reservation by January 31, 1876, they would be declared "hostile." The Sioux were under no legal obligation to return and could not return because of the weather. They were attacked, but defeated General Crook at the Battle of Rosebud and annihilated Lt. Col. Custer at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876.

The U.S. violated Articles 11 and 16 of the 1868 Treaty by attacking the Sioux while they were exercising their right to hunt near the Bighorn Mountains. Although some refer to the Battle of the Little Bighorn as a "massacre," it was clearly a battle in which the Indians were defending their families against an egocentric Indian fighter who planned to capitalize on the event and become President of the United States.

The United States Government resented its defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. The Battle, therefore, marked the beginning of a course of dishonorable dealings by the federal government with the Sioux people to [get] revenge [for] Custer's defeat. This course has continued down to the present time.

On August 15, 1876, Congress passed an appropriations bill, often referred to as the "starve or sell" bill, which provided that no further appropriations would be made for the subsistence of the Sioux under the 1868 Treaty unless they gave up the Black Hills and reached an accommodation with the United States that would enable them to become self-supporting.

To accomplish this cession, Congress requested the President to appoint a commission to negotiate an agreement with the Sioux to buy the Hills.

The 1876 Commission, however, could not obtain the requisite number of signatures required by Article 12 of the 1868 Treaty, so Congress took matters into its own hands and enacted the proposed "Agreement" into law on February

28, 1877. This enactment confiscated the Black Hills, the 1851 Treaty lands, and hunting rights recognized under the 1868 Treaty.

**August 1819:
Horrible Anniversary:
The Peterloo Massacre;
“The Government’s Attitude Was Made
Clear By Its Total Endorsement Of The
Massacre”**



[spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk]

**‘Rise, like lions after slumber.
In unvanquishable number!
Shake your chains to earth like dew,
Which in sleep had fallen on you!
Ye are many- they are few!’**

[Thanks to Max Watts, who sent this in.]

When all the contingents had arrived and assembled in the centre of Manchester, something like 12 per cent of the population of the county of Lancashire, and over half that of its industrial South East were present. It was the largest assembly England had ever seen.

As soon as all the contingents had filled St Peter's Field, to the point where, according to a contemporary report, people were packed in so tightly that 'their hats seemed to touch', the area was ringed by 1,500 troops with cannon.

1981 By Graham Milner, Unpublished

On August 16, 1819, mounted regular troops and yeomanry of the British army, acting on the instructions of Government officials, attacked without warning a mass meeting of over 100,000 people drawn from the industrial centres of Lancashire in the north-west of England.

The meeting, held on St Peter's Field in the centre of Manchester, the major industrial city of Lancashire, had been organised as part of a national campaign to win a radical reform of the British parliament and to redress the economic grievances of working people.

Over four hundred men, women and children were killed or seriously injured as a result of this 'action'.

One of the cavalry units involved - the 11th Hussars - had been present at the Battle of Waterloo, which had occurred four years earlier. As soon as the massacre became known to the public, the savage sobriquet 'Peterloo' was universally adopted.

The August 16 massacre in Manchester was one outcome of an extraordinarily powerful and determined agitation for social and political justice in England which at times approached pre-revolutionary proportions. The primary social force behind this mass agitation was the new working class.

This new class, the industrial proletariat, emerged from the industrial revolution, a transformation of economic and social relations that began towards the end of the 18th century, primarily in parts of north-west England. The cradle of this revolution was in fact south-east Lancashire, and Manchester in particular.

Here, technological innovations developed in the latter third of the 18th century, such as the steam engine, the power loom and the spinning jenny, were applied to the previously-dispersed, domestic-based cotton industry then existing. The 'putting-out' system, whereby spinners and weavers worked at home at more or less their own pace, was replaced by vast factories employing hundreds or thousands of workers.

The new machine industry was concentrated in these factories. Raw materials and fuel for the machines came from the coal and iron extraction industries then emerging in other parts of England and Scotland. Around the factories grew up large industrial

towns such as Rochdale, Stockport, Oldham and Blackburn, as well as the world's first industrial city - Manchester.

The previously-existing social order broke up in Lancashire and other emergent industrial districts, and was replaced by a new one.

Ties of dependence descended from feudalism - a deferential hierarchy linking 'masters' and 'men'; the static, rigid order overseen by landlord and parson; all this was burst asunder and replaced by the cut-throat world of capitalist competition.

In these regions the whole pattern of life was revolutionised.

By 1800, of English cities, Manchester was second only to London in size.

Near to the centre of Manchester, in large opulent houses, lived the new rich - the capitalist factory owners. Surrounding the factories lived the workers and their families. Many of these workers were ruined hand-loom weavers or hand spinners forced to seek work in factory towns like Manchester, as competition from cheap, machine-produced goods forced them out of their traditional occupations.

Many capitalists made quick fortunes raising jerry-built, back-to-back slums to house the workers. Almost without exception these slums were overcrowded, damp, ill-lit, without sanitation, and without running water or gardens.

Many who sought employment were denied it by the frequent slumps that punctuated the evolution of capitalist industry. Those who did find work were faced with ruthless exploitation and appalling working conditions.

Long hours - fourteen hours per day was quite usual - abysmally low wages, child labour and dangerous, unguarded machinery were the norm. Sexual abuse of women by foremen and capitalists was rampant. Immigrant workers, especially those from Ireland, fared particularly badly.

The new working class was by no means a 'dormant, passive mass' in the face of these conditions of life and work. It hit back at its oppressors in an increasingly intelligent, organised and effective way.

Working class radicalism in England was on the rise when the French Revolution broke out in 1789. Jacobin democratic clubs sprang up across the country during the 1790s, inspired by the Revolution in France, and by widely-circulated books such as Tom Paine's 'The Rights of Man'.

The Government's repression of domestic radicalism, which it combined with a reactionary war against the French republic, was strongly and widely opposed by workers.

The historian Edward Thompson, in his book 'The Making of the English Working Class' reveals how the English workers fought back during the period of the French wars, by organising unions and secret societies in defiance of the Combination Acts, and by burning mills and smashing the machines that threatened their livelihoods.

By 1815 the revolutionary ferment brewing underground burst forth in the mass radicalism that was to come to a head in 1819.

At this time Manchester and its surrounding area was, among governing circles, considered to be the most 'turbulent and seditious' in the country. The mass movement as a national force directed itself towards achieving first political rights, and secondly social and economic justice.

Political rights included first and foremost a democratic, representative parliament, and it included the sweeping away of 'Old Corruption'. Under that system bribery and patronage of electors were rife.

Old Sarum, which had been the parliamentary seat of William Pitt the Elder, consisted of a few tufts of grass, while Manchester, with its population of 200,000, went unrepresented. Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, under which religious minorities - Jews, Roman Catholics and Non-Conformists in particular - faced discrimination in public life, was another major issue.

Repeal of the anti-trade union Combination Acts, and the monopolistic Corn Laws also were major focuses of organised agitation.

The ongoing economic struggle for improved wages, shorter hours and better working conditions was made more imperative by the acute distress of the post-war years in England.

Industry and trade slumped.

Unemployment rose and was swelled by the return of demobilized troops from Continental Europe.

Wages fell. Actual starvation faced many working-class communities.

Joseph Johnson, a shareholder in the Radical newspaper the 'Manchester Observer', wrote of conditions in Manchester in 1819, the year of Peterloo: 'Everything is almost at a standstill, nothing but ruin and starvation stare one in the face. The state of the district is truly dreadful.'

The Government in power at this time, that of the Tory Prime Minister Lord Liverpool, has been described as one of the most reactionary and repressive in British history. It represented the interests of no more than a narrow ruling class of big landowners, City financiers and merchants.

Liverpool and his closest advisors were firmly convinced that England was on the brink of revolution.

The Home Secretary, Sidmouth, who had control of the police, militia and army units stationed in England, had organised an elaborate network of spies to disrupt the radical movement.

Castlereigh, another of Liverpool's ministers, had been instrumental in the suppression of the Irish Rebellion of 1798 and the subsequent terror campaign and forced Union of Ireland with Britain.

Control of Manchester itself was in the hands of the descendants of the same local landed clique that had ruled this once small market town in pre-industrial times. Landowners and clergymen dominated the local magistracy - this body was to have direct responsibility for instigating the Peterloo massacre.

A local levy of merchants, manufacturers, publicans and shopkeepers, all rabid enemies of the working-class radical movement, formed the backbone of the 'Manchester and Salford Yeomanry Cavalry' - the body that charged into the assembly at St Peter's Field.

Although one of the powerhouses of the mass movement for radical reform was centered in the industrial districts of Lancashire, by 1819 a coordinated national effort was well under way, based on mass mobilisations in all the major cities.

1817 had witnessed a huge meeting of workers, mainly spinners and weavers, assembling on St Peter's Field to see off the famous 'March of the Blanketeers' from Manchester to London. The march sought redress of economic grievances.

1818 had been a year of mass strikes aimed at restoring falling wage levels. These strikes showed a great capacity by workers for discipline and organisation, with meetings, marches and pickets in Manchester and Stockport.

A new feature of these actions was the increasing participation of women workers. Union Societies were founded to develop basic education in the working class and to circulate the ideas of radicalism in an organised way. Women had their own separate Union Societies.

The workers' press advanced the ideas of radicalism with imagination and tenacity. The most widely-read newspapers among radicals and radical sympathisers were William Cobbett's 'Political Register', as well as 'The Black Dwarf'.

A typical issue of the Radical 'Manchester Observer', founded in 1818, included alongside a demand for the impeachment of Sidmouth, coverage of the republican revolution in Venezuela.

Mass meetings for parliamentary reform and for the repeal of the hated Corn Laws, which artificially inflated the price of bread, took place in Stockport and Manchester in the first half of 1819.

By July thousands of workers had begun drilling on the moors and in the fields outside working-class districts in Lancashire. The same thing occurred in other parts of the country. In July as many as 2000 workers paraded in semi-military formation along the High Rd from Manchester to Rochdale.

These preparations were primarily aimed at improving organisation for the planned August mass meeting at St Peter's Field, to which contingents from surrounding towns were to march. The planned assembly in Manchester was part of a broader national

effort for July-August 1819, which organised large meetings in Birmingham, Leeds and London.

The reactionary oligarchy controlling the city of Manchester made preparations in league with Sidmouth and the national Government for what amounted to the waging of civil war on the workers expected to pour into Manchester to demand reform of parliament.

In July the magistracy formed an 'Armed Association for the Preservation of the Peace' and enrolled special constables.

Military units in the S.E. Lancashire areas were mobilised as part of a national military alert. As soon as instructions came through, the yeomanry sent its sabres to be sharpened.

On the final weekend before the rally at St Peter's Field the city magistracy sat in almost continuous session to discuss ways and means of dealing with the mobilisation.

In the weeks before the St Peter's Field meeting, which as everyone expected would be the largest meeting ever seen in England, Manchester's streets and buildings were covered with posters and placards, and thousands of leaflets and fliers were distributed.

The publicising and organisation of the assembly was a major achievement of communication and organisation. Assembly points were announced from which people in the towns and districts surrounding Manchester could gather and from there march in disciplined contingents to the rally.

August 16 in Lancashire was a lovely summer day with a cloudless sky and a hot sun shining. There was a confident, cheerful and festive atmosphere as the contingents gathered and prepared to march.

Bands played, and the beautiful banners, woven and embroidered with great care, were unfurled. Oldham's banner was of pure white silk, emblazoned with the inscriptions 'Universal Suffrage, Annual Parliaments - Election by Ballot', and 'No Combination Acts: Oldham Union'.

Saddleworth's was jet black, with the inscription 'Equal Representation or Death' in white over two joined hands and a heart. One of the banners carried by the Stockport contingent read 'Success to the Female Reformers of Stockport'. Many red caps of liberty were carried.

When all the contingents had arrived and assembled in the centre of Manchester, something like 12 per cent of the population of the county of Lancashire, and over half that of its industrial South East were present. It was the largest assembly England had ever seen.

As soon as all the contingents had filled St Peter's Field, to the point where, according to a contemporary report, people were packed in so tightly that 'their hats seemed to touch', the area was ringed by 1,500 troops with cannon.

No-one in the crowd, least of all the organisers, suspected that an attempt to physically disperse the meeting was planned. Meetings such as this, even if smaller and without the same evident discipline and organisation, had been held many times before up and down the country.

The ensuing massacre was completely unexpected and unprovoked, and met with little organised resistance.

The city magistrates had even gone to the lengths in their preparations for the massacre of employing scavengers to remove every stone, brick or possible missile from the Field and surrounding streets, so that the meeting's participants were thus left entirely without defence.

Barely had Hentry Hunt, the main featured speaker, begun to address the meeting when mounted troopers of the yeomanry charged the hustings to arrest him and others on the platform.

At first the crowd, which had not been aware of the presence of the troops, did not panic and Hunt shouted: 'Stand firm, my friends: there are only a few soldiers, and we are a host against them'.

But as the yeomanry, many of whom were drunk, charged with sabres drawn, slashing and cutting their way through the crowd and trampling and crushing many people, chaos and panic gripped the field.

According to witnesses cited in Joyce Marlow's account 'The Peterloo Massacre', the yeomanry, having tasted blood, went berserk. They dragged the speakers and organisers from the hustings and would have killed Hunt had he not been quickly whisked away to jail. The yeomanry continued to slash and cut indiscriminately at men, women and children alike, while smashing wagons and platforms, and tearing the banners and the caps of liberty. The regular cavalry then moved onto the field to complete the work. Hundreds more people suffered serious injuries from the slashing sabres and flying hooves, or were smothered under piles of falling bodies.

Ten minutes from the first charge it was all over. Samuel Bamford, the Lancashire poet, described the scene:

'...the field was an open and almost deserted space. The hustings remained, with a few broken and hewed flagstaves erect, and a torn and gashed banner or two drooping; whilst over the whole field were strewed the caps, bonnets, hats, shawls and shoes and other parts of male and female dress; trampled, torn and bloody. The yeomanry had dismounted - some were easing their horse's girths and some were wiping their sabres.

Many more people were killed and maimed as the troops continued to 'disperse' the crowd through surrounding streets.

That night one person was shot dead and several injured in clashes between soldiers and crowds of angry workers.

The Government's attitude was made clear by its total endorsement of the massacre.

The Prince Regent, then disporting himself on his yacht, made it known, through Sidmouth, what great satisfaction he had derived from the magistrate's 'prompt, decisive and efficient measure for the preservation of public tranquility'. Despite repeated and widely-voiced demands for one, there was never an official inquiry into the Peterloo Massacre.

An immense wave of anger swept across England in the wake of the massacre.

The mass movement for reform was not appreciably set back by the Peterloo massacre. A huge crowd estimated by the conservative 'Times' at 300,000 lined the streets of London to greet Hunt after his release from jail.

Meetings were spurred all over England by the events at St Peter's Field, especially in the North East counties, where over 50,000 miners marched into Newcastle from surrounding districts.

Loyalist forces in this area began arming, and the pitmen took up arms to defend themselves. In the months of October and November, according to Edward Thompson, workers across the country stocked pikes and other weapons to defend themselves and their meetings.

Drilling and armed demonstrations were reported in Newcastle, Wolverhampton, Wigan, Bolton and Blackburn.

Divisions within the Radical movement's leadership between constitutionalists and revolutionaries were not resolved, and this crisis of leadership, combined with renewed Government repression and an economic upturn brought this early phase of mass working class struggle to a close.

The events in Manchester on August 16, 1819 however, will remain forever inscribed in the collective memory of the international working class.

Shelley's poem 'The Masque of Anarchy' was written just after Peterloo, and its final stanza carries the fighting sentiments of thousands of workers:

**'Rise, like lions after slumber.
In unvanquishable number!
Shake your chains to earth like dew,
Which in sleep had fallen on you!
Ye are many- they are few!'**

CLASS WAR REPORTS

“Socialists Unconditionally Oppose U.S. Imperialist Threats And Intervention, Military Or Otherwise” “But This Can’t Serve As An Excuse To Fall In Behind The ‘Lesser Evil’ Logic Of Defending A Venezuelan Government That Has Betrayed The People”

August 15, 2017 by Tom Lewis, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

In Venezuela today, a neoliberal right aims to kill off the Bolivarian process, using violence and economic sabotage, with the full backing of U.S. imperialism. At the same time, a venal "Chavista" government, led by President Nicolás Maduro, reigns over scarcity, represses dissent, rigs elections and fills private bank accounts with profits pilfered from an extractivist economy and military drug trafficking.

The question "which way out?" or "what way forward?" for Venezuela is routinely posed as a binary choice.

Should we support Maduro’s government or align with the opposition?

If you choose the first option, you side with a government that has betrayed the Bolivarian process. And if you choose the second option, you side with an opposition dominated by fascists and neoliberals.

At least on the English-speaking left, the debate over Venezuela has predictably been plotted as yet another episode in the tired old melodrama of "lesser evilism."

One of the legacies of Stalinism is that the ugly politics of lesser evilism raises its twin horns everywhere and in every way: Trump or Clinton? Washington or Moscow? Stalin or Mao? Maduro or MUD (Mesa de la Unidad Democrática, Democratic Unity Roundtable)?

Too often, we do not dare to answer: Neither of the above.

But "neither of the above" is precisely the response demanded by the current situation in Venezuela.

Venezuelan revolutionaries--as well as the many foreign sisters and brothers who offer international solidarity to the Bolivarian process--find ourselves pressured to choose between a lesser evil (Maduro and the state bureaucracy dominated by the ruling United

Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) and a greater evil (the right-wing opposition and U.S. imperialism).

This is a sclerotic and ultimately self-destructive choice--one that guarantees, no matter which side wins, the suffocation of the revolutionary energies and ideals that led millions to support Chavismo in the early years.

Fortunately, there exist some political groups, some rank-and-file unionists, some urban colectivos and perhaps some rank-and-file sectors of the armed forces who consider themselves to be authentic Chavistas and who are prepared to organize for another way.

Donald Trump's threats to start more wars, including against Venezuela, represent a heightening of the U.S. government's long-standing hostility toward the governments of Chávez and Maduro. Socialists unconditionally oppose U.S. imperialist threats and intervention, military or otherwise. But this can't serve as an excuse to fall in behind the "lesser evil" logic of defending a Venezuelan government that has betrayed the people.

Only a fully-fledged socialist revolution--one that abolishes state capitalism, thereby loosening the hold of imperialism and dissolving a racketeering state--can enact true and lasting reforms.

So what is to be done?

The path lies in the direction of building a revolutionary united front committed to fighting the right, re-establishing the constitution of 1999, and recovering the economic and social gains of the early years of the Bolivarian process. The starting point would be to pursue a united front among a variety of groups and individuals.

This united front would not include the Opposition, the boliburguesía or hard-line, rigidly centralized and authoritarian sectors of the PSUV. It should, however, seek to win over some of the trade unions, colectivos and student groups that at present remain formally within the PSUV. Their support for Maduro, especially among the rank and file, may weaken as the crisis deepens.

A revolutionary united front might also include pockets of rank-and-file military resistance to Maduro--depending on whether the military rebels have declared for MUD or for the Constitution of 1999.

A revolutionary united front strategy should not, however, rely fundamentally on the military. The old Bolivarian strategy of "civic-military" alliances revealed its bankruptcy starting in 2006, if not before. Nevertheless, if sectors of the military declare for the Constitution of 1999, and if they agree to fight under revolutionary civilian leadership, then their participation could be welcomed.

The only strategy with any promise of success in breaking the chains forged by imperialism and state capitalism in Venezuela is that of the patient building up of revolutionary socialist forces outside of both the Maduro government and the opposition.

No one should entertain any illusions that such a strategy can provide a short-cut or quick fix. There is nothing automatic about it, and eventual success will require a commitment to longer-term struggle.

It is not, of course, the place of North American socialists to choose the way forward for Venezuelan socialists. But in fact, a strategy similar to the one outlined in this article has already been proposed by the comrades of Venezuela's Marea Socialista (MS).

At this juncture, one cannot claim that MS and its allies can field anything like the social forces necessary to defeat the opposition, nor to simultaneously transform Venezuela's regime of state capitalist accumulation. In a way that other significant political formations in Venezuela do not, however, MS carries the flame of authentic Chavista hope and expresses it with the resolute clarity of revolutionary socialism.

For MS's perspective and its rich analysis of contemporary Venezuelan society and politics, see the interview with MS member Carlos Carcione published at SocialistWorker.org.

Meanwhile, back in the belly of the beast: If the bellicose thug known as Donald J. Trump does anything further to interfere with the process of Venezuelan self-determination, he and those who support him in Congress, the State Department and the U.S. military should be challenged mightily in American streets by our own homegrown united front.

Hands off Venezuela! U.S. Out of Latin America!!

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Police Assault A Father And Son From East Jerusalem: “Break The 58-Year-Old Father’s Arm And Arrest Him And His 15-Year-Old Son” “All Without Any Cause For Arresting Them In The First Place”



1 Aug 2017 B'Tselem

S.H., 58, lives in Silwan, East Jerusalem. He is a metalsmith and has five children.

On 13 June 2017, at around 12:00 noon, S.H. was watering the garden in front of his home, while his 15-year-old son was sitting in the family car, in front of the house, listening to music.

Suddenly, three police vehicles drove up and stopped by the house. A man dressed in civilian clothes and several Border Police officers came out and knocked on the door of the house next door, which belongs to S.H.'s brother. No one answered.

The man in plainclothes walked over to S.H. and addressed him in Hebrew, asking his name and demanding he hand over the keychain on his belt so he could enter the brother's house. S.H. said the keys on the chain did include any to his brother's house, and the two argued for a while.

In a testimony he gave B'Tselem field researcher 'Amer Aruri on 14 June 2017, S.H. recounted what happened next:

“Four officers went at me right away. One of them bashed my head against the front of the car. A second one grabbed me by the left hand and a third by the right. At the same time, I saw they were also assaulting my son.”

His 15-year-old son, B.H., said in the testimony he gave on 20 June 2017:

“I saw four Border Police officers beating my father, and I was scared to get out of the car. A man in civilian clothes came up to me and pulled me out. He threw me to the ground. I fell on my side and then rolled onto my back, and a Border Police officer started to beat me.”

B.H.’s mother, T.H., 55, heard the commotion and came out of the house to see what was going on. In a testimony she gave on 14 June 2017, she recalled those moments:

“I heard my husband arguing with someone. It was in Hebrew, which I don’t understand. I went out into the yard and saw three vehicles parked in front. Then I saw security forces beating my son, but I didn’t see my husband.

“I went out into the street, and saw a Border Police officer holding my son by force. I tried to go up to him, but two officers stood in my way and wouldn’t let me reach him. I yelled at them: ‘Shame on you. He’s a little kid!’ They said: ‘Stop shouting.’ The officers threw my son to the ground and put their feet on his head.

“While this was happening, I could hear my husband screaming in pain, but I couldn’t see what was happening to him because I was watching the officers who were beating my son. I saw them take him, while the other two officers still kept me from going near him. I felt dizzy and I almost fell. I’m diabetic, and there was no one around to help me. I started walking back towards the house, leaning on the fence and the door, until I managed to get inside.”

Footage captured by a neighbor on his cell phone shows the man in the civilian clothing and one Border Police officer putting the son inside one of the vehicles. According to the son’s testimony, after he was taken into the car, the officers handcuffed him and also put on leg restraints.

Border Police officers are then seen shoving the father against one of the vehicles and roughly twisting his arm behind his back, as he cries out in pain. The plain-clothed man then returns and handcuffs the father from behind using metal handcuffs. The officers then put the father in the same car with the son and drove both to the police station on Salah a-Din Street, where a Border Police officer handcuffed the father, with his hands in front. In his testimony, he said:

“The policemen ordered me to sit on the floor. They made my son stand facing the wall. A Border Police officer slammed his head into the wall. We stayed this way for two hours. I asked for water because I felt dizzy and dehydrated and one of the officers brought some. My son refused to drink because of the Ramadan fast. Then, they separated us and put each of us in a different room.”

A Public Defense attorney who arrived at the station talked with S.H. and asked the officers to take him to hospital due to the severe pain in his arm and the fear it was broken, but they refused and began interrogating him.

According to his testimony, they accused him of obstructing a police officer in the performance of his duties and of assaulting a police officer.

An hour later, he was released and the investigator told him he could go to the hospital but emphasized the police had nothing to do with his injured arm. S.H. called his 31-year-old son, who took him to Hadassah Mt. Scopus Hospital. Following an x-ray which showed a fracture, his broken arm was put in a cast.

While the father was being interrogated, the police took his son to a different room. In his testimony, B.H. said there were three Border Police officers in the room and they would not let him use the bathroom.

A Public Defense attorney arrived and spoke with him for several minutes. After a few hours of waiting, he was taken to a different room and interrogated about the incident for about 30 minutes. In the evening, after the Ramadan fast ended for the day, the officers brought him a glass of water and a single date to eat. He did not ask for more food, fearing the officers would beat him. That night, he was taken to the Russian Compound detention facility, where the officers removed his hand and ankle cuffs, searched him, and gave him some sour cream and bread for the meal before the Ramadan fast resumes for the day.

At around 5:30 P.M. the following afternoon, he was released to serve five days of house arrest, after his parents posted a thousand shekel [approx. USD 350] bail and signed an additional NIS 5,000 [approx. USD 1,750] guarantee.

This case illustrates how unbearably easy it is for police to abuse East Jerusalem residents:

Border Police officers arrest a man and his 15-year-old son, break the father's arm, assault the son during detention, hold the father for several hours, keep the son overnight then release him for a five-day house arrest on a NIS 1,000 bail – all without any cause for arresting them in the first place.

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

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

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



US Government Demands Details On All Visitors To Anti-Trump Protest Website

15 August 17 By Julia Carrie Wong and Olivia Solon, Guardian UK

The US government is seeking to unmask every person who visited an anti-Trump website in what privacy advocates say is an unconstitutional “fishing expedition” for political dissidents.

The warrant appears to be an escalation of the department of justice’s campaign against anti-Trump activities, including the harsh prosecution of inauguration day protesters.

On 17 July, the department of justice served a website-hosting company, DreamHost, with a search warrant for every piece of information it possessed that was related to a website that was used to coordinate protests during Donald Trump’s inauguration.

The warrant covers the people who own and operate the site, but also seeks to get the IP addresses of 1.3 million people who visited it, as well as the date and time of their visit and information about what browser or operating system they used.

The website, www.disruptj20.org, was used to coordinate protests and civil disobedience on 20 January, when Trump was inaugurated.

“This specific case and this specific warrant are pure prosecutorial overreach by a highly politicized department of justice under (Attorney General Jeff) Sessions,” said Chris Ghazarian, general counsel for DreamHost. “You should be concerned that anyone should be targeted simply for visiting a website.”

The warrant was made public Monday, when DreamHost announced its plans to challenge the government in court. The department of justice declined to comment. A hearing is scheduled for Friday.

The government has aggressively prosecuted activists arrested during the 20 January protests in Washington DC. In April, the US attorney’s office in Washington DC filed a single indictment charging more than 217 people with identical crimes, including felony rioting.

Ghazarian said that DreamHost provided the government with “limited customer information about the owner of the website” when it first received a grand jury subpoena one week after the protests occurred. But the government came back in July with the much broader search warrant.

“We’re a gatekeeper between the government and tens of thousands of people who visited the website,” said Ghazarian. “We want to keep them protected.”

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, which has been advising DreamHost, characterized the warrant as “unconstitutional” and “a fishing expedition”.

“I can’t conceive of a legitimate justification other than casting your net as broadly as possible to justify millions of user logs,” senior staff attorney Mark Rumold told the Guardian.

Logs of IP addresses don’t uniquely identify users, but they link back to specific physical addresses if no digital tools are used to mask it.

“What they would be getting is a list of everyone who has ever been interested in attending these protests or seeing what was going on at the protests and that’s the troubling aspect. It’s a short step after you have the list to connect the IP address to someone’s identity,” he said.

Wide-reaching warrants for user data are sometimes issued when the content of a site is illegal such as pirated movies or child sexual abuse imagery, but speech is rarely prohibited.

“This (the website) is pure first amendment advocacy – the type of advocacy the first amendment was designed to protect and promote,” Rumold added. “Frankly I’m glad DreamHost is pushing back on it.”

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