

Military Resistance 17D1



ACTION REPORTS

Two Soldiers On Borders Of Their Own Own [Outreach To The New York National Guard

From: AS
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Outreach to New York National Guard
Date: Mar 20, 2019

At last night's outreach in one of New York's commuter terminals, a young sergeant recognized me as I approached. He frowned as I greeted him and his patrol partner. As true of many National Guard soldiers patrolling the three city terminals, he had seen me many times and wasn't interested in the same conversation he said he'd had with me before.

After a few more words I felt it was time to leave. The sergeant's partner wasn't eager to talk to me either.

The sergeant wanted to know why I kept doing outreach since he didn't see where it changed anything as "people will do what they want anyway."

He said he hadn't read material I'd given him before, which had included a copy of "Soldiers in Revolt." He pointed out the book is available, as previously reported, in their break room at this terminal for those interested.

I answered his question, letting him know what Military Initiative is about and why we keep on doing outreach to troops. I mentioned the Mexican border and the horrors awaiting immigrants trying to live decent lives.

To support my point I showed him a copy of MR 17C1, featuring the image of the U.S. Imperial Eagle feeding on Venezuela and the accompanying headline: "troops don't view immigration as a threat, etc."

He took the copy, with new interest, and when I offered him a reprint of a NY Times article about National Guard troops being withdrawn from the border, he took that too.

He assured me he probably wouldn't read either. I left on friendly terms. Maybe he won't read the material I'll give him next time – probably not wanting to insult me since we've known each other so long.

Later on I approached 5 soldiers at another terminal; a friendlier group this time. I passed out three Newsletters. A young private stood beside the other four. He hadn't met me yet. I showed him the newsletter and he wanted to know how he could access it on line, not wanting a hard copy (many troops say they can't accept anything at all other than cards although those that do, fold what they take into fours and fit it into trouser pockets).

I gave him our card. He looked at it and asked "who can I contact about this (National Guard troops being sent to the border)?" I pointed out our e-mail address would do for the time being and hoped we'd hear from him soon. He appeared seriously interested as he headed off with the others for patrol.

MORE:

ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to Military Resistance for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so.

If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out. Reporting what went wrong and/or got screwed up is especially important, so that others may learn from you what to expect, and how to avoid similar problems if possible.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.

MORE:

Military Initiative

Organizing Committee Mission Statement:

July 4, 1776

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

1. Members of the armed forces have the right and duty to defend civilians from dictatorships and to aid civilian movements against dictatorships.

This applies whether dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or is imposed when those in command of the resources of society use their wealth for buying politicians to control the government.

The armed forces are not for use by politicians or corporations to attack movements fighting for improvement in the lives of working class citizens, or to attack the rights and liberties of Americans written in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution

2. The armed forces are not for use in wars of Empire.

Military Initiative is for immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Members of the armed forces organizing to defeat wars of empire will receive encouragement and support.

The long term objective is to assist in eliminating wars of empire by eliminating all empires.

Nations attacked by Empires have the right to independence and to resist invasion.

3. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will be encouraged and supported.

This applies to the armed forces of every nation. There is no national government at this time organized by, for, and under the control of its citizens.

4. Military Initiative does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces because members of the armed forces working together is most effective.

That said, Military Initiative will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.

5. Military Initiative practices organizational democracy.

This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels. Anyone elected is subject to recall, by majority vote of the membership.

Any coordinating bodies will report their decisions and votes to the membership, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.

6. It is unnecessary for Military Initiative to be in complete political agreement with other organizations to work together toward a common objective.

Organizations working together on common objectives need to discuss differences about the best way forward.

7. The mission of Military Initiative is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians who are dedicated to these objectives.

In order to be prepared to defend and extend human rights and economic justice, we will meet together to organize wherever we may be, engaging in such activities as may be necessary, reasonable and effective.

Membership Requirements:

8. Civilian member participate in organized action to reach out to and work with active duty armed forces.

9. Military Initiative or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan and Iraq, but do not support candidates opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.

10. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.

11. I understand and am in agreement with this mission.

I oppose bigotry against people because of their race, religion, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation.

I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

-----**(Signed**

(Date)

----- **(Application taken by)**

Military Initiative:

P.O Box 2604,
N.Y., N.Y. 10108

MORE

You Can Take Action That Makes A Difference: Join The Military Initiative: MILITARY INITIATIVE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (please print): _____

Armed Forces? (Branch) _____

Veteran? Years: _____

Union: _____

Occupation: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone (Landline): _____

Phone (Cell): _____

\$ dues paid _____

(See next: Calendar year basis.)

Armed Forces Members	@	Dues waived
Civilians	@	\$25
Students/Unemployed	@	\$10
Civilian/Military Prisoners	@	Dues Waived

Comments:

NOTE: Civilian applicants will be interviewed, in person if possible, or by phone.

**Military Initiative:
P.O Box 2604,
N.Y., N.Y. 10108**

MORE

“People Need Not Be Helpless Before The Power Of Illegitimate Authority”

[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]

In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.

The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.

Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.

Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.

Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.

During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.

To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.

The central lesson of the GI movement is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.

Military Initiative

**Military Initiative
P.O Box 2604,
N.Y., N.Y. 10108**

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Continue To Hit Mogadishu With Car Bombs: Shabaab Said It Was Targeting “Agents And Officers Of The Security Apparatus”

March 28th, 2019 BY CALEB WEISS, Long War Journal. [Excerpts]

At least 15 people were killed yesterday when Shabaab in East Africa, detonated a car bomb on one of Mogadishu’s busiest roads.

The bombing was just the latest in a string of car bombs that have hit the Somali capital this week.

Those 15 people were killed when the car bomb detonated near a popular restaurant and hotel on Mogadishu’s Maka al Mukarama road. Another 17 people were left wounded. According to local sources, the majority of those killed and injured were dining in the restaurant at the time of the blast.

In a statement released via its Shahada News Agency, Shabaab said it was targeting “agents and officers of the security apparatus,” a common term for Somalia’s intelligence agency, and “former representatives in parliament.”

The latest bombing came just two days after another car bomb struck along the same road in Mogadishu. That attack left one civilian dead and two others wounded. A day prior, another car bombing killed a university lecturer in Mogadishu’s Hodan district.

Just two days prior, a prominent civil engineer in Mogadishu was assassinated by a car bomb. While last Tuesday, a senior official with the Criminal Investigation Department of the Somali police was also assassinated by yet another car bomb in Mogadishu.

Earlier this month, another assault targeted the popular Maka al Mukarama hotel in Mogadishu. According to Somali officials, at least 30 people were killed in the strike.

Shabaab has been resurgent in Somalia since losing ground to a combined African Union (AU) [U.S. government-backed occupation forces] and Somali offensive in 2011. The jihadist group has slowly but methodically retaken several towns and villages that it lost in both central and southern Somalia – often after AU or Somali forces withdrew.

In addition, Shabaab remains a potent threat against both African Union and Somali military bases in central and southern Somalia. It also retains the ability to strike within heavily fortified areas of Mogadishu, as seen time and time again.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

COMMENT: T

There has been a notable decrease in media in coverage of police violence and other abuses against citizens since the start of this year. The articles below include earlier reports that are reminders of what reality is.

Border Patrol Agents Pulled Comedian Off Greyhound Bus To Check His Status, Then Told Him His Papers Were Fake: “They Told Me That I Was Lying”

1.29.19 by Luz Lazo, The Washington Post

A Portland-based comedian says U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents forced him to get off a Greyhound bus in Spokane, Washington, on Sunday and show proof of citizenship.

The agents then accused him of having fake documents, comedian Mohanad Elshieky said in a Twitter thread that went viral, reviving outrage about the agency’s practice of boarding intercity buses and demanding identification and proof of citizenship from passengers.

“I explained to them that I was granted Asylum here in the United States, and that the work permit they currently hold and the license are impossible to get unless your presence here is legal,” said Elshieky, a native of Libya. The interrogation went on for 20 minutes, he said. “They told me that I was lying and these could pretty much be falsified.”

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials have said the agency had been doing such “routine” checks for several years, but civil rights advocates have described the searches as uncommon. A request for comment to CBP on the Spokane incident was not immediately answered.

At the Spokane Greyhound station where Elshieky was asked to get off his Portland-bound bus, officials have described multiple instances in which Border Patrol agents checked passenger identification. A city council member two years ago said he learned Border Patrol conducts routine bus checks “a couple of times a day.”

However, complaints have increased and the incidents have garnered more attention amid the debate over U.S. border protection and President Donald Trump's demand that a wall be built along the nation's southern border. On the East Coast, a video went viral last year showing a Border Patrol officer asking Greyhound passengers for identification and taking a woman into custody.

In that case, a bus en route in Florida from Orlando to Miami was stopped in Fort Lauderdale on a Friday afternoon when two uniformed officers boarded the bus and introduced themselves as Border Patrol agents. Border Patrol officials later said the inspection had led to the detention of "a passenger who was illegally residing in the United States."

Border Patrol practices have ignited lawsuits and also protests targeting Greyhound. Lawyers in California last fall asked a state judge to order Greyhound to stop allowing federal immigration agents to board its buses to demand proof of citizenship from passengers. Greyhound, the country's largest motor coach operator, has responded by sending alerts to passengers about their rights should immigration officers board buses.

The company advises passengers that they have "the right to remain silent," to refuse a search of their belongings and to not answer questions about citizenship or immigration status. Riders also have the right to refuse to sign paperwork without the advice of a lawyer, the company advises.

"As a passenger on an intercity bus, you should know that federal officials may stop and board a bus within 100 miles of any border under federal law. You may be asked questions and/or for documentation," the company warns riders.

In an October statement, the company said it understood customers' concerns about Border Patrol practices and that while it neither coordinates with nor supports the agency's actions, it intends to comply with federal law.

Elshieky's tweetstorm prompted new outrage over the practice.

"I am absolutely ashamed and sorry this has happened to you," Spokane City Council member Kate Burke tweeted at Elshieky, citing a City Council measure to prevent the federal agents from conducting such searches that hasn't been executed.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-NY, retweeted Elshieky's thread and offered the incident to support her call for eliminating Immigration and Customs Enforcement. (The inspection, however, was conducted by the sister agency, CBPder Patrol).

Elshieky questioned the legality of the search, the agents' procedures to verify his legal status, and Greyhound's power to keep border patrol officer off their buses.

He said officers got on the phone with immigration officials to verify his status, and he could hear "the person on the end of the line saying that yes they can see my name and yes, I entered the country legally," Elshieky wrote.

But the agency, he said, "ended the call and then said 'there are no records of your Asylum'"

He said he it's "ridiculous" to think he needs to be carrying his Asylum approval on him when he has other form of identification.

"I have never felt as terrible as I did today. I have never imagined that I would have to go through this," Elshieky said. " @ GreyhoundBus . You could have easily not let those agents on the bus."

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Military Resistance Newsletter, P.O Box 2604, N.Y., N.Y. 10108 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

Daly City Man Held Down, Tased To Death By Police In His Home: "It's Unclear If Ragudo Was Tazed Before Or After He Was Handcuffed"

Jan 17 2018 By Amber Lee, KTVU

A Daly City man died after police used a Taser on him at his home Tuesday night.

Warren Ragudo's family tells KTVU it was unnecessary for police to use a Taser on him. The deadly incident is being investigated by the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

His mother says the family called for help when her 34-year-old son started running around the house, acting scared.

"He likes to take drugs. That's why we called the police because he's on drugs," says Dolores Ragudo.

She says her son had started using drugs six years ago and that he was addicted to methamphetamine.

She says the family has called the police about 10 times in the past few years, but that police did not use a Taser during any of the previous encounters. Tuesday night was the only time.

“This is the first time he was unconscious when he left the house,” says Dolores Ragudo.

“Normally, they just take him to the hospital or jail when he’s high.”

“It wasn’t just yelling and screaming at one point. His own family was describing it as growling and yelling,” says Steve Wagstaffe, San Mateo County district attorney.

He says three Daly City police officers responded to the family’s call for help.

Wagstaffe says the officers were invited inside the home where a struggle took place.

It’s unclear if Ragudo was tazed before or after he was handcuffed.

“They were able to get him under control. As they did, they realized wait, the breathing got shallower. He stopped breathing. They immediately uncuffed him and started applying CPR,” says Wagstaffe.

Ragudo was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

“I don’t like the Taser. I’m scared about the Taser. I just wished that they didn’t use that (on) him.

Maybe he’d still be alive,” says Dolores Ragudo,” Of course, I’m angry but it’s already happened so we have to accept it.”

District Attorney Wagstaffe says the investigation will take 8-10 weeks to complete. He says one key factor is if the Taser played a role in Ragudo’s death.

The investigation will look at whether the use of force was justified and whether excessive force was used.

Florida Police, Worried About Crime Stats, “Invented Evidence, Falsified Police Reports Or Coerced Or Fabricated Confessions”

“One Of Those Officers, Anthony De La Torre, Specified He Was Told To Look For Black People”

“Captain Has Told Him Multiple Times To Pin Cases Pending On Anyone Black Walking Through The Streets At Night”

September 21, 2018 by Meagan Flynn, The Washington Post

In 2013, in the affluent Miami suburb of Biscayne Park, police officers became so skilled at cracking unsolved burglaries that all it took was the stroke of a pen.

Then-police chief Raimundo Atesiano had never seen such success, as he testified at a village council meeting in July that year. The police department, he said, was boasting a 100 percent clearance rate in burglary cases.

“This is the first time I’ve ever known that to happen in any department that I’ve ever been in,” he said to loud applause, as the Miami Herald reported.

But in fact, it never happened. And Atesiano knew it.

As Atesiano bragged on his department, Clarens Desrouleaux languished in prison, serving time for grand theft and a burglary that prosecutors and a judge now acknowledge Desrouleaux never committed.

Desrouleaux, a Haitian immigrant, was one of three black men who federal prosecutors say were victims of a police department’s conspiracy to make itself look good at fighting crime at the expense of innocent people who were framed.

One victim was as young as 16.

In all three cases, police officers invented evidence, falsified police reports or coerced or fabricated confessions in order to pin the burglaries on the men - all so that they could maintain impressive crime stats, according to federal criminal court documents.

The consequence of the wrongful conviction for Desrouleaux: five years wasted in prison, the loss of his green card and deportation back to Haiti, a federal lawsuit now claims.

Former chief Atesiano pleaded guilty last Friday to conspiring to deprive people of civil rights while admitting that he directed subordinate officers to make knowingly false arrests in order to clear unsolved burglaries.

Three other former officers pleaded guilty in July and August to deprivation of civil rights for their roles in the wrongful arrests. They will each be sentenced in the coming weeks.

“The police chief of Biscayne Park essentially wanted to have good stats with 100 percent solve rates on thefts and burglaries, so he ordered his police officers to go after people - from my understanding, black people - with criminal records,” said Cam Cornish, an attorney for one of the three framed men, Erasmus Banmah. “Basically, this was a case of people in positions of power picking on the marginalized society.”

While race was not a factor in the federal criminal case, a Village of Biscayne Park Police Department internal affairs investigation obtained by The Washington Post suggests the command staff may have instructed officers to specifically target black people.

At least four officers said during the 2014 internal investigation that Atesiano and another police captain ordered them to arrest anybody on the street with a record - while one of those officers, Anthony De La Torre, specified he was told to look for black people.

“Officer De La Torre stated the Captain has told him multiple times to pin cases pending on anyone black walking through the streets at night,” the internal affairs report states.

“He stated the Chief told him the same thing and the Corporal also relayed the message. He stated, for instance, if they have burglaries that are open cases that are not solved yet, if you see anybody black walking through our streets and they have somewhat of a record, arrest them so we can pin them for all the burglaries. He stated they were basically doing this to have a 100 percent clearance rate for the city.”

Atesiano’s defense attorney, Richard Docobo, strongly denied that race played a factor in any of the arrests.

“There is no credible evidence that any of the officers at Biscayne Park arrested anyone because of their race or ethnicity,” he told The Post. “The suggestion from anyone that that was the case is false.”

Cornish said he had no understanding of how his client, Banmah, ended up targeted for the five car burglaries, beyond the fact that he is black and has a record. In each arrest report obtained by The Post, police claim their suspicion of Banmah originated from information provided by a “reliable confidential informant.”

In some of the reports, the officer claimed Banmah rode with the officer to the crime scene, where the officer claimed Banmah confessed about all that he had stolen: a DVD player, a wheelchair, a “blue bag containing junk.”
It was all made up.

Charges were dropped against Banmah and against the 16-year-old victim, who was framed for four residential burglaries, according to court records.

But Desrouleaux didn’t get so lucky.

Police initially arrested Desrouleaux on suspicion that he forged a check connected to a recent home burglary, according to federal court documents.

While he was in custody, Atesiano told the arresting officers to charge him with two open burglaries - knowing that there was no evidence connecting him to them. They claimed he confessed.

Desrouleaux, who also has a record, faced 30 years in prison for those burglaries, according to his federal lawsuit.

Instead of taking his case to trial and risking decades behind bars, he pleaded guilty and served five. (He was not convicted in the suspected check forgery.)

Desrouleaux is now back in Haiti, where he was deported following his release from prison on the wrongful burglary and theft cases in August 2017. A judge has since vacated his convictions.

But his attorney, Sagi Shaked, said Desrouleaux is still not allowed to return to the United States, which he is fighting to change. He is trying to get home to his two children, who still live in Miami.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to injustices, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance Newsletter, P.O Box 2604, N.Y., N.Y. 10108.

Residents Say Activist “Taken Into Custody For Videoing Police Mistreatment Of A Black Youth” “A Public Information Officer With The San Francisco Police Department, Could Not Say Why Sato Was Arrested” “He Heard Sato Say ‘Get Your Hands Off Of My Mother’ Before Police Arrested Him”

Arrest of San Francisco activist Equipto sparks protest outside police station in Mission District

Sep. 19, 2018 by Gwendolyn Wu and Lauren Hernández, San Francisco Chronicle

More than 50 protesters confronted police outside of the Mission police station in San Francisco following the arrest of a Bay Area activist Wednesday who residents said was taken into custody for videoing police mistreatment of a black youth.

Ilyich Sato, a rapper also known as Equipto, and the youth were arrested after 6 p.m. on Valencia Street in a chaotic scene that was filled with tense confrontations between residents and police. Sato was released hours later, as protesters crowded outside the Mission station, shouting at police and accusing them of brutality and unfairness.

It all began, witnesses told The Chronicle, as members of the Black and Brown Social Club were meeting on Valencia Street to discuss police brutality against people of color. During the meeting, participants heard a thud outside and saw police arresting the youth across the street, in front of Everlane, a women’s boutique.

“He was handcuffed on his back and he started slightly moving a little,” Sato said of the black youth. That’s when Sato said police began getting aggressive with the youth, infuriating bystanders, who began shouting at officers and confronting them about their actions.

Tensions escalated when police arrested Sato and took him down on his stomach, he and witnesses said.

“The more I said that I couldn’t breathe, the more it was hurting,” Sato said after he was released. “They had me in a hog-tied position.”

Officer Joseph Tomlinson, a public information officer with the San Francisco Police Department, could not say why Sato was arrested. Police did not release information on the arrest of the youth.

Outside the Mission station after his release, Sato told The Chronicle that arresting officers told him that he was detained for “resisting arrest,” but that officials declined to provide why he was originally placed under arrest.

Kevin Williams, a witness who had been attending the meeting, said he heard Sato say “get your hands off of my mother” before police arrested him.

Videos posted to social media show the confrontation between residents and multiple officers who were standing around a male who was face-down on the sidewalk on Valencia Street.

Earlier in the night, as Sato was still detained by police, dozens of protesters swelled outside of the Mission station chanting “power to the people.”

When Sato walked out of the station, he embraced his mother and was welcomed by cheers.

At one point, police closed off Valencia Street in front of the station as the crowd outside grew, with people shouting, “Who do you serve? Who do you protect?”

Sato has led hunger strikes at the steps of San Francisco police stations in recent years in response to fatal officer-involved shootings and allegations of police brutality in the area.

He called for former San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee to fire then-San Francisco Police Chief Greg Suhr in 2016 after a number of officers were accused of sending racist, sexist homophobic and anti-Semitic text messages.

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive Military Resistance immediately and directly, send request to contact@militaryproject.org.

There is no subscription charge.

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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

**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
-- Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819, on the occasion of a mass murder of British
workers by the Imperial government at Peterloo.**

Red Ropes

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: March 20, 2014
Subject: Red Ropes

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th
Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

Red Ropes

The room has a Stage
in the old High School
the people are sitting
in the worn out seating
& those who talk
have only 5 minutes
at the mike
Then a Sarge screams out
like a toxic jelly fish
wrapped around orders
for 3 teenage black girls
who proudly march
& then stop at attention
in their clean camouflaged
uniforms & boots
& sly berets on heads &
march around the stage
& then they are gone
like a female teenager
in Vietnam
who is bit by a venomous
snake with no
anti-venom medicine
& because she is poor
she dies
The power line up before the
High School Teacher's Board
First a Quaker like a poisonous
spider blasts them
for letting Junior ROTC
& War into the School
in the first place
All War is wrong he says
& you're Brainwashing these
young naive teenagers
Then a fat Vietnam veteran

slips up to the mike
like a toxic ocean snail
with 6 pieces
of medium size red rope
He tells the Board
that Soldiers in Afghanistan
tie ropes around their
thighs as he takes 2
red ropes & ties them
around his faded bluejeans
then he takes 2 ropes
& ties them around his calves
finally he says they tie
2 ropes around each
of their arms so when
they step on a land mine
they hope they won't bleed out
before medivac's & surgery
then the Veteran walks back
to his seat with the
6 red ropes around him
Finally a young man steps up
to the mike like a mega
dragon lizard 11 feet long
& he spits out his poison
that the School has to pay
for the uniforms boots
& berets & part of Sarge's wages
provide him a room
with office supplies
with a computer
you just haven't received
the bills yet
Then a black women on the Board
blurts out we thought
the Army pays for all of that
because we just had to
buy a new frame for a school bus
& bolt on the old body to it
because we didn't have
the money to buy a new bus
the lizard then crawls back
to his seat knowing
they are dead
A week later at the School Board
Office the Board says they can
Not afford JR ROTC

written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

**“Guns, Rifles And Munitions
Are Excellent Servants Of
Order, But They Have To Be Put
Into Action”**

**“For That Purpose People Are
Needed”**

**“And Even Though These People Are
Called Soldiers, They Differ From
Guns Because They Feel And Think,
Which Means They Are Not Reliable”**

**“The People Seize This Moment To Go
Among The Ranks Of The Soldiers And
Convince Them, Face To Face, To Come
Over To The People’s Side”**

A dictator enjoys no moral support; on the contrary, he runs into obstacles every minute; around him forms a network of contradictory influences and recommendations; orders are given and then withdrawn; confusion grows; and the government’s demoralisation spreads and deepens at the same time as it feeds the self-confidence of the people

**From: “After the Petersburg Uprising: What Next?” (Munich, 20 January 1905) by
L. Trotsky [Excerpts]**

As the soldiers file by on their way to the scene of ‘military action’, people will shower them from the windows with thousands of brief but fervent appeals; the troops will encounter passionate words from speakers on the barricades, who will take advantage of the slightest moment of indecision on the part of the military authorities; there will also be the powerful revolutionary propaganda of the crowd itself, whose enthusiasm will be transmitted to the soldiers through exclamations and appeals.

Moreover, the soldiers have already been affected by the prevailing revolutionary attitude; they are irritated and exhausted, and they loathe their role of executioner.

They tremble as they await the malicious command of their officer.

The officer orders them to open fire — but then he himself gets shot down, maybe as a result of a previously agreed plan, maybe just in a moment of bitter resentment.

Confusion breaks out among the troops.

The people seize this moment to go among the ranks of the soldiers and convince them, face to face, to come over to the people's side.

If the soldiers obey the officer's command and let loose a volley, the people respond by throwing dynamite at them from the house windows. The result, once again, will be disorder in the ranks, confusion among the soldiers, and an attempt by the revolutionaries — through appeals or by having the people mingle directly with the soldiers — to convince them to throw down their arms or bring them with them as they join up with the people.

If this fails in one instance, there must be no hesitation in using the same means of fear and persuasion again, even with the same units of troops.

Ultimately, the moral authority of military discipline, which restrains the soldiers from following their own thoughts and sympathies, will break down.

Such a combination of moral and physical action, inevitably leading to a partial victory of the people, depends more on organised and purposeful street movements than on arming the masses in advance — and this, of course, is the main task of the revolutionary organisations.

By winning over small units of the army, we will win control of larger units and eventually of the whole army, because victory over one part will give the people weapons.

Both during the Great French Revolution and again in 1848, the army, as an army, was stronger than the people.

The revolutionary masses triumphed not because of the superiority of their military organisation or military technology, but because they were able to infect the national atmosphere that the army breathed with the germs of rebellious ideas.

Of course, it makes a difference for the to and fro of street battles whether the range of a gun is only a few hundred sazhen or several versts, whether it kills a single person or hits tens of people, but this is still only a secondary question of technology when compared to the fundamental question of revolution — the question of the soldiers' demoralization.

'Whose side is the army on?'

That is the question that decides everything, and it has nothing to do with what type of rifles or machine-guns may be used.

Guns, rifles and munitions are excellent servants of order, but they have to be put into action.

For that purpose people are needed.

And even though these people are called soldiers, they differ from guns because they feel and think, which means they are not reliable.

They hesitate, they are infected by the indecision of their commanders, and the result is disarray and panic in the highest ranks of the bureaucracy.

A dictator enjoys no moral support; on the contrary, he runs into obstacles every minute; around him forms a network of contradictory influences and recommendations; orders are given and then withdrawn; confusion grows; and the government's demoralisation spreads and deepens at the same time as it feeds the self-confidence of the people.

The Excerpts Below May Be Useful In Understanding Current Events And Where Those Events Are Tending

Comment: T

The excerpts below may be useful in understanding current events and where those events are tending.

That said, one dimension not covered below may be worth considering.

Before people, especially classes, frame a clear program to fight for, it is human history that first the negation of things-as-they-are unfolds and reaches mass rage.

People tend to first puke up what they don't want before they formulate a program and plan of action to get what they do want.

On a massive scale, world-wide, huge numbers of very angry people are expressing with crystal clarity what they do not want.

They do not want the economic system, capitalism-as-it-is.

Most do yet understand that capitalism cannot be reformed, cannot be anything other than what it is now: society organized to benefit and politically governed by the class of capitalists class for themselves.

That understanding will come; is coming now, more every day.

Episodic movements from below, now in one place, now another, all over the world, are what comes first, the negation of things-as-they-are that has preceded every great mass movement forward in human history.

That is happening now.

Negation in mass consciousness of the cruelty, stupidity, and incompetence of 2020 capitalism is at the same time the birth of a defiant, new, worldwide, urban, working class movement from below.

The worldwide tectonic earthshaking that began in Tunisia in 2011 has sometimes paused, and will pause again, and be defeated, and be defeated again, but continues growing and moving forward, everywhere.

Nothing on this world-wide scale of working class resistance from below has been seen before.

The excerpts below are about how and why material reality is the basis for and drives our resistance forward.

“[P]roletarian revolutions, like those of the nineteenth century, constantly criticize themselves, constantly interrupt themselves in their own course, return to the apparently accomplished, in order to begin anew; they deride with cruel thoroughness the half-measures, weaknesses, and paltriness of their first attempts, seem to throw down their opponents only so the latter may draw new strength from the earth and rise before them again more gigantic than ever, recoil constantly from the indefinite colossalness of their own goals – until a situation is created which makes all turning back impossible ...”

...The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte. Karl Marx 1852

“The Expropriators Are Expropriated” [The Negation Of Negation]

Excerpts from: Capital; K. Marx; based on the 4th edition. Chicago: Charles H. Kerr and Co., 1906; Frederick Engels, Ernest Untermann, eds.; Samuel Moore, Edward Aveling, trans. 1867

HISTORICAL TENDENCY OF CAPITALIST ACCUMULATION:

Part VIII, Chapter XXXII.1

What does the primitive accumulation of capital, i.e., its historical genesis, resolve itself into?

In so far as it is not immediate transformation of slaves and serfs into wage-labourers, and therefore a mere change of form, it only means the expropriation of the immediate producers, i.e., the dissolution of private property based on the labour of its owner.

Private property, as the antithesis to social, collective property, exists only where the means of labour and the external conditions of labour belong to private individuals. But according as these private individuals are labourers or not labourers, private property has a different character.

The numberless shades, that it at first sight presents, correspond to the intermediate stages lying between these two extremes.

The private property of the laborer in his means of production is the foundation of petty industry, whether agricultural, manufacturing or both; petty industry, again, is an essential condition for the development of social production and of the free individuality of the laborer himself.

Of course, this petty mode of production exists also under slavery, serfdom, and other states of dependence.

But it flourishes, it lets loose its whole energy, it attains its adequate classical form, only where the laborer is the private owner of his own means of labour set in action by himself: the peasant of the land which he cultivates, the artisan of the tool which he handles as a virtuoso.

This mode of production pre-supposes parceling of the soil, and scattering of the other means of production.

As it excludes the concentration of these means of production, so also it excludes co-operation, division of labour within each separate process of production, the control over, and the productive application of the forces of Nature by society, and the free development of the social productive powers.

It is compatible only with a system of production, and a society, moving within narrow and more or less primitive bounds.

To perpetuate it would be, as Pecqueur rightly says, "to decree universal mediocrity."

At a certain stage of development it brings forth the material agencies for its own dissolution.

**"This Fearful And Painful Expropriation Of The Mass Of The People Forms
The Prelude To The History Of Capital"**

From that moment new forces and new passions spring up in the bosom of society; but the old social organization fetters them and keeps them down.

It must be annihilated; it is annihilated.

Its annihilation, the transformation of the individualized and scattered means of production into socially concentrated ones, of the pigmy property of the many into the huge property of the few, the expropriation of the great mass of the people from the soil, from the means of subsistence, and from the means of

labour, this fearful and painful expropriation of the mass of the people forms the prelude to the history of capital.

The expropriation of the immediate producers was accomplished with merciless Vandalism, and under the stimulus of passions the most infamous, the most sordid, the pettiest, the most meanly odious.

Self-earned private property, that is based, so to say, on the fusing together of the isolated, independent laboring-individual with the conditions of his labour, is supplanted by capitalistic private property, which rests on exploitation of the nominally free labour of others, i.e., on wages-labour.

“WHAT THE BOURGEOISIE THEREFORE, PRODUCES, ABOVE ALL, ARE ITS OWN GRAVE-DIGGERS”
[FOOTNOTE TO THE ABOVE]

The advance of industry, whose involuntary promoter is the bourgeoisie, replaces the isolation of the labourers, due to competition, by their revolutionary combination, due to association.

The development of Modern Industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet, the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces and appropriates products.

What the bourgeoisie therefore, produces, above all, are its own grave-diggers.

Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable....

Of all the classes, that stand face to face with the bourgeoisie today, the proletariat alone is a really revolutionary class.

The other classes perish and disappear in the face of Modern Industry, the proletariat is its special and essential product....

The lower middle-classes, the small manufacturers, the shop keepers, the artisan, the peasant, all these fight against the bourgeoisie, to save from extinction their existence as fractions of the middle-class...they are reactionary, for they try to roll back the wheel of history.

-- Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, “Manifest der Kommunistischen Partei,” London, 1847, pp. 911.

“The Expropriators Are Expropriated”

Part VIII, Chapter XXXII.2

As soon as this process of transformation has sufficiently decomposed the old society from top to bottom, as soon as the labourers are turned into proletarians, their means of labour into capital, as soon as the capitalist mode of production stands on its own feet,

then the further socialization of labour and further transformation of the land and other means of production into socially exploited and, therefore, common means of production, as well as the further expropriation of private proprietors, takes a new form.

That which is now to be expropriated is no longer the laborer working for himself, but the capitalist exploiting many labourers.

This expropriation is accomplished by the action of the immanent laws of capitalistic production itself, by the centralization of capital.

One capitalist always kills many.

Hand in hand with this centralization, or this expropriation of many capitalists by few, develop, on an ever extending scale, the co-operative form of the labour-process, the conscious technical application of science, the methodical cultivation of the soil, the transformation of the instruments of labour into instruments of labour only usable in common, the economizing of all means of production by their use as the means of production of combined, socialized labour, the entanglement of all peoples in the net of the world-market, and this, the international character of the capitalistic régime.

Along with the constantly diminishing number of the magnates of capital, who usurp and monopolize all advantages of this process of transformation, grows the mass of misery, oppression, slavery, degradation, exploitation; but with this too grows the revolt of the working-class, a class always increasing in numbers, and disciplined, united, organised by the very mechanism of the process of capitalist production itself.

The monopoly of capital becomes a fetter upon the mode of production, which has sprung up and flourished along with, and under it.

Centralization of the means of production and socialization of labour at last reach a point where they become incompatible with their capitalist integument.

This integument is burst asunder.

The knell of capitalist private property sounds.

The expropriators are expropriated.

“The Negation Of Negation”

Part VIII, Chapter XXXII.3

The capitalist mode of appropriation, the result of the capitalist mode of production, produces capitalist private property.

This is the first negation of individual private property, as founded on the labour of the proprietor.

But capitalist production begets, with the inexorability of a law of Nature, its own negation.

It is the negation of negation.

This does not re-establish private property for the producer, but gives him individual property based on the acquisitions of the capitalist era: i.e., on co-operation and the possession in common of the land and of the means of production.

Part VIII, Chapter XXXII.4

The transformation of scattered private property, arising from individual labour, into capitalist private property is, naturally, a process, incomparably more protracted, violent, and difficult, than the transformation of capitalistic private property, already practically resting on socialized production, into socialized property.

In the former case, we had the expropriation of the mass of the people by a few usurpers; in the latter, we have the expropriation of a few usurpers by the mass of the people.

Summing Up:

[P]roletarian revolutions, like those of the nineteenth century, constantly criticize themselves, constantly interrupt themselves in their own course, return to the apparently accomplished, in order to begin anew; they deride with cruel thoroughness the half-measures, weaknesses, and paltriness of their first attempts, seem to throw down their opponents only so the latter may draw new strength from the earth and rise before them again more gigantic than ever, recoil constantly from the indefinite colossalness of their own goals – until a situation is created which makes all turning back impossible ...

-- The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte. Karl Marx 1852

“Diminish The Cost Of Subsistence Of Men, By Diminishing The Natural Price Of The Food And Clothing, By Which Life Is Sustained, And Wages Will Ultimately Fall”

From: Rosa Luxemburg; Introduction To Political Economy; Ms. 1909-1910 [Excerpt]

The monetary expression, i.e. the price of the commodity labor-power, is called the wage.

With every other commodity, the price rises when demand grows more quickly than supply, and conversely falls when the supply of the commodity is greater than demand.

The same also holds for the commodity labor-power: with rising demand for workers, wages show a general tendency to rise, and if the demand falls or the labor-market is overfilled with fresh commodity, wages show a tendency to fall.

Finally, as with every other commodity, the value of labor-power, and along with it ultimately its price as well, is higher if a greater amount of labor is required for its production: in this case, if the worker's means of subsistence require more labor for their production.

And conversely, every saving on the labor required to produce the worker's means of subsistence leads to reduction in the value of labor-power, and thus also in its price, i.e. in wages.

As David Ricardo wrote in 1817:

"Diminish the cost of production of hats, and their price will ultimately fall to their new natural price, although the demand should be doubled, trebled, or quadrupled.

"Diminish the cost of subsistence of men, by diminishing the natural price of the food and clothing, by which life is sustained, and wages will ultimately fall, notwithstanding that the demand for laborers may vary greatly increase."

ANNIVERSARIES

April 6, 1712: Honorable Anniversary: Courageous Slaves Rise Up Against Their Masters; "Death Was Preferable To Life In Bondage"

Carl Bunin Peace History April 6-12

Slavenorth.com & Pbs.org [Excerpts]

In 1712, some slaves in New York City rose up in a crude rebellion that could have been much more deadly, had it been better planned.

As it was, it was among the most serious slave resistances in American history, and sparked a vicious backlash by the authorities.

The stage was set for an uprising.

First, the city had a large population of black slaves -- the result of many years of trade with the West Indies. Secondly, communication and meeting among enslaved persons was relatively easy, since the New York City's inhabitants lived in a small area on the southern tip of Manhattan.

Thirdly, living in such a densely populated area also meant that slaves worked in close proximity to free men, a far cry from the situation on the plantations to the south.

The revolt was led by African-born slaves, who decided death was preferable to life in bondage.

They managed to collect a cache of muskets and other weapons and hide it in an orchard on the edge of town.

On the night of April 6, twenty-four of the conspirators gathered, armed themselves, and set fire to a nearby building. They then hid among trees, and when white citizens rushed up to put out the blaze, the slaves opened fire on them, killing five and wounding six.

The surviving citizens sounded the alarm. Every able-bodied man was pressed into service, and appeals were made to governors of surrounding colonies. The militia pinned down the rebels in the woods of northern Manhattan. The leaders of the uprising committed suicide, and the rest, starving, surrendered.

The death toll in the 1712 uprising doesn't seem high, but in a New York county that, at that time probably numbered some 4,800 whites, it was shocking.

In considering the psychological impact on the survivors, imagine some sort of attack on modern New York, with its 8 million people, that would leave casualties of 10,000 dead.

A special court convened by the governor made short work of the rebels. Of the twenty-seven slaves brought to trial for complicity in the plot, twenty-one were convicted and put to death.

Since the law authorized any degree of punishment in such cases, some unlucky slaves were executed with all the refinements of calculated barbarity.

New Yorkers were treated to a round of grisly spectacles as Negroes were burned alive, racked and broken on the wheel, and gibbeted alive in chains.

In his report of the affair to England, Governor Hunter praised the judges for inventing 'the most exemplary punishments that could be possibly thought of.' “[

White New Yorkers had been apprehensive before the revolt of April 6; now they were spurred into action.

Strict laws were soon enacted, and more would come, over the next thirty years. No longer could more than three black slaves meet. A master could punish his slaves as he saw fit (even for no reason at all), as long as the slave did not lose his or her life or limb. Any slave handling a firearm would receive twenty lashes. Anyone caught gambling would be whipped in public.

Involvement in a conspiracy to kill would result in execution, as would a rape. There was even a law that discouraged masters from freeing a slave:

The master could free a slave, but only after posting a bond of 200 (pounds). This money would be paid to the freed slave if that slave couldn't support himself or herself.

These laws would, in the end, prove to be futile. In 1741, New York would see another uprising.

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