Nurses Condemn Hospitals That Put Profits Ahead Of Protection From Ebola Virus:

“It Is Unconscionable That The Hospitals Do Not Have The Optimal Standards And
Protocols Already In Place To Protect Our Caregivers”
“Our Top Representatives In Both Branches Of Government Are Not Directing Them To Do So”
“We Know These Hospitals. Their Priority Is Not Optimal Ebola Preparedness, It Is Protecting Their Budgetary Goals And Profit Margins”
“Unless There Is An Act Of Congress Or An Executive Order From The White House, They Will Opt For The Cheapest Standard, Not The Best”

After the hearing, Burger noted, “the CDC guidelines are a pull down menu, the hospitals can choose among them, they will invariably choose the cheapest. But
Following a Congressional hearing Friday morning in Washington on Ebola and the latest confirmed Ebola patient in New York Thursday, National Nurses United said a major gap remains in U.S. preparedness – the failure of the federal government, both Congress and the White House, to mandate all hospitals to implement the highest standards and protocols to protect nurses, other health workers and the public.

NNU, represented in the hearing by co-president Deborah Burger, RN, expressed thanks to committee chair Rep. Darrell Issa of California and Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland for convening the hearing, and especially Cummings for pressing NNU’s call for a mandate. Afterwards, NNU stressed here must be no more delays.

“We are not interest in more communication between various agencies. We are solely interested in a mandate directing every hospital, every U.S. health facility, to immediately implement the optimal precautions, in both personal protective equipment and proper training,” said NNU Executive Director RoseAnn DeMoro.

“An ‘abundance of caution,’ which we heard advocated in the hearing, has little meaning in the absence of the clout of an enforcement mechanism. It is unconscionable that the hospitals do not have the optimal standards and protocols already in place to protect our caregivers – and that our top representatives in both branches of government are not directing them to do so,” DeMoro said.

“We know these hospitals. Their priority is not optimal Ebola preparedness, it is protecting their budgetary goals and profit margins.

Unless there is an Act of Congress or an executive order from the White House, they will opt for the cheapest standard, not the best. The legislators, the White House, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention need to stop enabling them by failing to act,” DeMoro said.

In testimony today, NNU Co-President Deborah Burger, RN also emphasized the critical importance of a formal mandate on the hospitals.

After the hearing, Burger noted, “the CDC guidelines are a pull down menu, the hospitals can choose among them, they will invariably choose the cheapest. But even if the CDC had a single, optimal standard, they do not have the authority to mandate it, which is why we’re calling on the President and Congress to act.”

In her formal testimony to the committee, Burger noted, “The Ebola pandemic and the exposure of health care workers to the virus in Texas and the real threat that it could occur elsewhere in the US, represent a clear and present danger to public health... The risk of exposure to the population at large merely starts with frontline caregivers like registered nurses, physicians and other healthcare workers – it does not end there. If we cannot protect our nurses and other healthcare workers, we cannot protect anyone.”
NNU is continuing inviting the public to join with nurses in signing an online petition demanding such a mandate from the President and Congress.

It calls for providing all nurses and other healthcare workers with the protection of full-body HazMat suits that are body fluid, blood, and virus impermeable that:

- Meet American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) F1670 standard for blood penetration
- Meet ASTM F1671 standard for viral penetration
- Include powered air purifying respirators with an assigned protection factor of at least 50, with full hood.
- Leave no skin exposed or unprotected.

And that this protective equipment must be implemented in all hospitals with rigorous, continuous hands-on training for all RNs and other frontline caregivers with practice, in teams, of the proper means for putting and, especially, removing the equipment after use (donning and doffing).

The petition may be signed at [http://www.nationalnursesunited.org/page/s/national-nurses-united-urges-you-to-take-action-now](http://www.nationalnursesunited.org/page/s/national-nurses-united-urges-you-to-take-action-now)

MORE:

**Christie Sworn in as Doctor**

October 27, 2014 By Andy Borowitz, The Borowitz Report

TRENTON — Saying that he was “sick and tired of having my medical credentials questioned,” Governor Chris Christie (R-N.J.) had himself sworn in as a medical doctor on Sunday night.
Dr. Christie acknowledged that becoming a doctor generally requires pre-med classes, four years of medical school, plus additional years of residency, but he said that the Ebola epidemic compelled him to take “extraordinary measures, as we say in the medical profession.”

Dr. Christie said that, beginning on Monday, he would begin a series of random “house calls” to check New Jersey residents for Ebola and assign them for quarantine.

“I can usually diagnose someone with Ebola in under a minute,” Dr. Christie said. “Even faster if I don’t actually see them.”

The doctor said that before moving forward with his plan to quarantine scores of New Jersey citizens he suspects of having Ebola, he consulted with other prominent epidemiologists, including Dr. Rick Perry, of Texas. “He concurs,” he said.

Dr. Christie defended his quarantine plan against critics, noting that unorthodox procedures in medicine often face opposition at first. “We’re used to hearing that the nurses and doctors who treat Ebola patients are heroes,” he said. “But the real heroes are the people who lock up those heroes.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Taliban Attacks On Afghan Capital Surge:
“The Taliban Have Adopted A Strategy That Emphasizes The Vulnerability Of Kabul And Gives The Impression That Ghani Ahmadzai’s Government Can’t Protect The Capital”
“Rockets Are More Dangerous Than Terrorist Attacks In Kabul Because It
KABUL, Afghanistan — Bombers, roadside bombs and rocket attacks on the Afghan capital have intensified in the one month since President Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai took office as the Taliban are sending a message that they disapprove of his tough stance on ending the insurgency and close security ties with Washington, officials, analysts and the Taliban said.

*In recent days, central Kabul’s diplomatic neighborhood has been shaken by late night rocket attacks.*

On both Friday and Sunday nights, rockets were fired into the heavily fortified “green zone,” sending locals running for cover and international residents into basement safe rooms to await the all clear.

According to an Associated Press tally, there have been at least 10 incidents in Kabul since Ghani Ahmadzai’s inauguration on Sept. 29, killing 27 people.

These include six suicide bombings, two roadside bombs and two rocket attacks.

On Oct. 1, seven Afghan soldiers and one civilian died in an attack on an Afghan National Army bus.

In the same month last year, six people were killed in five incidents, which included an insider attack on an army base in which an Afghan soldier opened fire on foreign troops and was shot dead.

Rocket attacks have been relatively rare in recent years.

The Taliban said they were responsible for sending the rockets into the city and that they would continue doing so following an intense summer of fighting.

“The tactics of our attacks have changed because of the weather, the season. The recent rocket attacks were by us and our aim is to destroy this government,” said Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.
He said the attacks were in retaliation for Ghani Ahmadzai’s decision to sign a bilateral security agreement with Washington, permitting a residual force of 9,800 U.S. troops to remain in the country after the end of the year.

“These attacks will continue because this government has signed the (agreement). There will be more attacks, as we seek to strike at the head of the enemy,” Mujahid said.

The commander of Afghan National Army ground forces, Gen. Murad Ali Murad, said the recent addition of rocket attacks to the Taliban arsenal was an attempt “to show the international community that they are still a force to be reckoned with,” as they appeared aimed at the diplomatic district of Wazir Akhbar Khan.

Wahid Mozhdah, a political analyst and former foreign ministry official in the Taliban’s 1998-2001 government, said he believed the insurgents were paying residents of villages outside the capital to enter the city to fire the rockets.

“Slowly, slowly the tactics of the Taliban are changing, because now they are paying people to fire rockets for them — it’s easy, they just fire the rocket and run away,” he said.

Ghani Ahmadzai’s attitude toward the Taliban has been a departure from that of his predecessor, Hamid Karzai. While Karzai habitually referred to the insurgents as his “brothers” and castigated the United States for its military presence in Afghanistan, Ghani Ahmadzai has not mentioned the Taliban by name in public statements, referring instead to “political opponents.”

In response, analysts say the Taliban have adopted a strategy that emphasizes the vulnerability of Kabul and gives the impression that Ghani Ahmadzai’s government can’t protect the capital.

“Rocket attacks create a sense of crisis among the capital’s residents and force a deterioration of the security situation,” said Jawed Khoistani, a political analyst.

He suggested that the accuracy of the rockets that have landed in the green zone pointed to some degree of cooperation with the security forces that are supposed to be guarding the city perimeter.

“Rockets are more dangerous than terrorist attacks in Kabul because it is clear there is help from within the capital itself,” he said.

Kabul shop keeper Ghulam Farooq said that while attacks generally happened during daylight hours, the rocket attacks meant that “now Kabul is not safe at night either ... I hope the Ghani government can put a stop to these night-time rocket attacks, so at least we can get some sleep.”
Insurgents Cut Off All Roads To The District Capital
Their Supply Lines Have Almost Entirely Been Cut Off
According To Several Elders, The Taliban Now Controls About 80% Of The District

27 October 2014 by Sune Engel Rasmussen in Tarin Kot, The Guardian [Excerpts]

When the people of Gaza district rose up and ousted their Taliban rulers four years ago, international forces touted the district as a success story of civil courage and a milestone in the decade-long war.

But now the district in Uruzgan, central Afghanistan, is about to fall back under the control of the insurgents, according to officials and community leaders.

The insurgent offensive comes a year after international troops withdrew from Uruzgan, and as UK troops are closing their largest base in Helmand, another embattled province in the south.

Wedged into the top corner of Uruzgan province, Gizab lies about 62 miles north of Tarin Kot, the provincial capital.

Roads leading here are unpaved, making the transfer of food and weapons and the evacuation of the wounded difficult.

To add to the troubles, the national army only has three helicopters, one of which is currently defunct, to support Uruzgan and three other provinces.

According to Colonel Rasul Kandahari, commander of the Afghan national army’s 4th brigade in Uruzgan, the helicopters have little capacity beyond airlifting bodies from the battlefield.

After insurgents cut off all roads to the district capital, security forces now await air support from the government.

So far, however, the unrest in Gizab has failed to trigger a reaction from Kabul.

A western official familiar with security in the region, who is not authorised to speak publicly on the matter, said Gizab was the most insecure district of Uruzgan.
More than a third of clashes in Gizab this year have reportedly occurred within the past month.

The battle for Gizab will vex western military leaders, who pinned great hopes on the district. In 2010 American and Australian special forces supported a revolt of a few hundred people against the Taliban, as part of a declared effort to support bottom-up counter-insurgency.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) trumpeted the uprising as an example of a successful “village stability operation”, designed to encourage ordinary Afghans to wrest power from the Taliban.

“The success with village stability in Gizab is a great example for the surrounding villages,” ISAF said in 2010.

This strategy also helped bring about the birth of the Afghan Local Police.

Established in 2010, the ALP drafts members from local communities and empowers Afghans to take responsibility for security, linking them with the central government. The US military expected most Afghans to turn against the Taliban when they realised that government forces were the stronger part.

**In Gizab, however, residents waited in vain after the revolt for the government to exert control, said Martine van Bijlert, an Uruzgan expert with the Afghanistan Analysts Network.**

“Instead, they just felt like a lot of local commanders were given a lot of power,” she said. “And it wasn’t necessarily better.”

**Corruption, nepotism and hard-handed treatment of residents remained the order of the day.**

International forces also underestimated the fluctuating nature of Afghan politics, expecting local power-brokers to throw their lot behind those that booted out the Taliban. “In reality, the US military were dealing with commanders who have a history of going back and forth between the different sides,” said Van Bijlert.

Violence flared up when insurgents crossed into Gizab from Ajristan district in neighbouring Ghazni province after clashing with government forces there in September. At the same time, Gizab’s core of anti-Taliban fighters from the 2010 revolt has been weakened.

In the summer, one of the leaders of the rebellion, a former shopkeeper called Lalay, reportedly left Gizab after a brawl with Tarin Kot’s police chief, Matiullah Khan. According to sources in Tarin Kot with knowledge of the infighting, Lalay attempted to usurp the police chief, who responded by propping up Lalay’s rival, a local Taliban leader, despite the police chief’s usual animosity for the insurgents.

Consequently, Lalay left for Kandahar, taking 300-400 fighters with him.
Illustrating how swiftly loyalties can change, the power struggle also shows the mistrust seeping through factions of the Afghan security forces.

In Uruzgan, the army, governor and police have been feuding for years, partly because of the police chief’s involvement in foreign-funded reconstruction projects and allegations of officials’ involvement in the drug trade.

However, Haji Abdullah Zafar, the district governor of Gizab, said all sections of the security forces were fighting shoulder to shoulder in Gizab, and numbered 400 men, including 300 police, soldiers and members of the intelligence service.

**Taliban fighters are twice as numerous, Zafar said, adding that there had recently been fierce clashes.**

“"The fighting was like a world war," he said.

Although estimates of insurgent numbers should be taken with a dose of salt when coming from officials seeking to draw more government support to their area, security forces in Gizab are clearly stretched to their limits.

Their supply lines have almost entirely been cut off. According to several elders, the Taliban now controls about 80% of the district.

The failure to tie Gizab more firmly to the provincial or national governments has allowed the Taliban to retake areas that had been secure, which seems to be the insurgents’ goal.

**While Taliban fighters occasionally attack district centres, they have recently focused on rural areas in an apparent attempt to secure freedom of movement through the country.**

Afghan forces in Gizab have been largely left to fend for themselves after international forces left Uruzgan at the end of last year.

In some areas of the country, insurgents have spent the past months testing the resilience of government forces, who lack the international support of the past, especially air power. The Afghan security forces cost an estimated $5bn-6bn (£3-3.7bn) annually, almost three times total government revenue last year.

**It is not the first time the people of Gizab have felt neglected.**

Gizab straddles a border between the Hazara people of the central highlands and the Pashtuns of the south.

In 2004, president Hamid Karzai cut out a chunk of Uruzgan and created the predominantly Hazara province of Daykundi. Initially, Gizab belonged to Daykundi, much to the aggravation of some of its Pashtun population, who responded by in effect surrendering control of the area to the Taliban. Two years later, the district was annexed to Uruzgan.
Many Dead As Insurgents Storm Kunduz Attorney General Office

Afghan security forces arrive at the site of an attack in Kunduz province on Monday. (Reuters)

Oct 27 2014 By Khaama Press & 28 October 2014 Arab News

KUNDUZ, Afghanistan: Taleban militants stormed a court in northern Afghanistan on Monday and killed at least ten people including prosecutors, shooting them in their offices at close range, officials said.

The raid was mounted in Kunduz, a city, which the insurgents have encircled in recent weeks and attempted to storm, so far without success.

Four attackers wearing army uniforms attacked the provincial appeals court, triggering a four-hour gunbattle with Afghan security forces, provincial police spokesman Sayed Sarwar Hussaini said.

“They first blew up an explosives-laden car at the gate of the court and then entered the building,” he said.

“The attackers killed nine court officials and one police. Eight people were wounded,” he said, adding that the militants were also killed.
Chief prosecutor Amruddin Amin said the gunmen went door-to-door in the court compound, shooting their victims at close quarters. “I jumped out of a window. I saw the gunmen shooting people at close range,” he said.

“The police guards inside the building fought them for hours, but they were eventually overpowered after they ran out of ammunition.”

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack on their website and said several court officials and prosecutors were killed.

They did not elaborate on the motive for the attack but the court was hearing several cases against Taliban militants.

More Resistance Action

27 October 2014 BBC

At least 17 police officers have been captured by Taliban militants in Afghanistan’s northern Badakhshan province, officials say.

Four officers died when militants attacked the government compound in Wardoj district, police say.

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Oct 28 2014 By Khaama Press

At least three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were martyred in separate Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in the past 24 hours.

Gen. Zahir Azimi, spokesman for the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said at least two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were martyred following IED attack and direct enemy fire.

He said another Afghan soldier was martyred early on Tuesday in eastern Khost following an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack.

Gen. Azimi further added another soldier was also injured following the incident which took place Yaqoobi area of Khost province.
Oct 26 2014 By Khaama Press

At least two rockets landed in the vicinity of Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan area in capital Kabul late on Sunday night.

Sources in the ministry of interior have said at least three rockets have landed in Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan area.

In the meantime, Kabul police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai confirmed that two rockets landed in Wazir Akbar Khan area but there were no casualties following the rocket attack.

This was the second rocket attack within the past three days on Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan, a high-security area in capital Kabul which is home to embassies and diplomatic missions.

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

The past year – every single day of it – has had its consequences. In the obscure depths of society, an imperceptible molecular process has been occurring irreversibly, like the flow of time, a process of accumulating discontent, bitterness, and revolutionary energy.

-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January”

Genocide

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance
Sent: October 25, 2009
Subject: Genocide
Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2009

Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

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Genocide

Take a bar of soap
and stick it up his anus
but it doesn’t do any good
as he defecates on the world
So take a hand grenade
stick it up his anus
stand aside and watch him blow up like a suicide bomber
the people think he is a terrorist and he is but that is one less of them
to kill so many people
It’s time to scrub the world
do some Elite Cleansing. 
Take the tide of raging men 
hang them from a rope 
a cloths line 
then take a broom 
called a 45 
cleanse both their ears 
from one side to the other 
it’s called Elite Cleansing. 
It's been done by them 
many times to the poor 
or unwanted people 
so they can have it all 
like the Palestinian 
genocide in Israel today 
or the genocide of Indians 
in the past in the USA. 
But now the new name 
is Elite Cleansing 
take a brush that is 
a machinegun 
line them up in Time’s square 
in front of everyone 
with the cameras on 
do some Elite Cleansing 
leave not one standing 
if they start to pray 
tell them there is no god.

“Even In Constituencies Where There 
Is No Prospect Of Our Candidate 
Being Elected, The Workers Must 
Nevertheless Put Up Candidates In 
Order To Maintain Their 
Independence”

“They Must Not Allow Themselves To Be 
Diverted From This Work By The Stock 
Argument That To Split The Vote Of The
Democrats Means Assisting The Reactionary Parties”

The gist of the matter is this: In case of an attack on a common adversary no special union is necessary; in the fight with such an enemy the interests of both parties, the middle-class democrats and the working-class party, coincide for the moment …

This was so in the past, and will be so in the future.

March 1850 By Karl Marx, Address of the Central Committee to the Communist League [Excerpts]

With a view to checking the power and the growth of big capital, the democratic party demands a reform of the laws of inheritance and legacies, likewise the transfer of the public services and as many industrial undertakings as possible to the state and municipal authorities.

As for the workingmen – well, they should remain wage workers: for whom, however, the democratic party would procure higher wages, better labor conditions, and a secure existence.

The democrats hope to achieve that partly through state and municipal management and through welfare institutions. In short, they hope to bribe the working class into quiescence and thus to weaken their revolutionary spirit by momentary concessions and comforts.

The democratic demands can never satisfy the party of the proletariat.

While the democratic petty bourgeoisie would like to bring the revolution to a close as soon as their demands are more or less complied with, it is our and our task to make the revolution permanent, to keep it going until all the ruling and possessing classes are deprived of power, the governmental machinery occupied by the proletariat, and the organization of the working classes of all lands is so far advanced that all rivalry and competition among themselves has ceased until the more important forces of production are concentrated in the hands of the proletarians.

With us it is not a matter of reforming private property, but of abolishing it; not of hushing up class antagonism, but of abolishing the classes; not of ameliorating the existing society, but of establishing a new one.

Even in constituencies where there is no prospect of our candidate being elected, the workers must nevertheless put up candidates in order to maintain their independence, to steel their forces, to gauge their own strength and to bring their revolutionary position and party views before the public.
They must not allow themselves to be diverted from this work by the stock argument that to split the vote of the democrats means assisting the reactionary parties.

All such talk is but calculated to cheat the proletariat.

The advance which the Proletarian Party will make through its independent political attitude is infinitely more important than the disadvantages of having a few more reactionaries in the national representation.

The gist of the matter is this: In case of an attack on a common adversary no special union is necessary; in the fight with such an enemy the interests of both parties, the middle-class democrats and the working-class party, coincide for the moment, and both parties will carry it on by a temporary understanding.

This was so in the past, and will be so in the future.

It is a matter of course that in the future sanguinary conflicts, as in all previous ones, the workingmen by their courage, resolution, and self-sacrifice, will form the main force in the attainment of victory.

As hitherto, so in the coming struggle, the petty bourgeoisie as a whole will maintain an attitude of delay, irresolution, and inactivity as long as possible, in order that, as soon as victory is assured, they may arrogate it to themselves and call upon the workers to remain quiet, return to work, avoid so-called excesses, and thus to shut off the workers from the fruits of victory.

ANNIVERSARIES

October 31, 1978: Honorable Anniversary

Striking Iranian oil workers: Photo: December 1978 issue of Resistance, A publication of the Iranian Students Association in the U.S. (ISAUS)
Thirty thousand Iranian oil workers went on strike against the repressive rule of the U.S.-installed Shah and for democracy, civil and human rights.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Out Of Control School Freaks Transforming Kids Into Criminals:
“In Texas, A Student Got A Misdemeanor Ticket For Wearing Too Much Perfume”
“In Wisconsin, A Teen Was Charged With Theft After Sharing The Chicken Nuggets From A Classmate’s Meal”

“Throwing An Eraser, Chewing Gum, Too Much Perfume, Unbelievable Violations’ Resulting In Misdemeanor Charges”

Stephen Perry, now 18, was charged with weapons possession last year because he had a small pocketknife at his Wake County, N.C., high school. A school suspension and time spent at court hearings left him short of the classes he needed to graduate.

Jeremy M. Lange for The Wall Street Journal


A generation ago, schoolchildren caught fighting in the corridors, sassing a teacher or skipping class might have ended up in detention.

Today, there’s a good chance they will end up in police custody.

Stephen Perry, now 18 years old, was trying to avoid a water balloon fight in 2013 when he was swept up by police at his Wake County, N.C., high school; he revealed he had a small pocketknife and was charged with weapons possession.
Rashe France was a 12-year-old seventh-grader when he was arrested in Southaven, Miss., charged with disturbing the peace on school property after a minor hallway altercation.

In Texas, a student got a misdemeanor ticket for wearing too much perfume. In Wisconsin, a teen was charged with theft after sharing the chicken nuggets from a classmate’s meal—the classmate was on lunch assistance and sharing it meant the teen had violated the law, authorities said. In Florida, a student conducted a science experiment before the authorization of her teacher; when it went awry she received a felony weapons charge.

**Over the past 20 years, prompted by changing police tactics and a zero-tolerance attitude toward small crimes, authorities have made more than a quarter of a billion arrests, the Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates. Nearly one out of every three American adults are on file in the FBI’s master criminal database.**

This arrest wave, in many ways, starts at school.

Concern by parents and school officials over drug use and a spate of shootings prompted a rapid buildup of police officers on campus and led to school administrators referring minor infractions to local authorities.

That has turned traditional school discipline, memorialized in Hollywood coming-of-age movies such as “The Breakfast Club,” into something that looks more like the adult criminal-justice system.

At school, talking back or disrupting class can be called disorderly conduct, and a fight can lead to assault and battery charges, said Judith Browne Dianis, executive director of the Advancement Project, a national civil-rights group examining discipline procedures around the country.

Some of these encounters with police lead to criminal records—different laws for juveniles apply across states and municipalities, and some jurisdictions treat children as young as 16 as adults.

In some states, for example, a fistfight can mean a suspension while in North Carolina a simple affray, as it is called, can mean adult court for a 16-year-old.

Some jurisdictions are so overwhelmed that they are experimenting with routing schoolchildren into specially designed courts that would keep first-time offenders from being saddled with an arrest record. Others have passed new laws or policies to dial back police involvement in school discipline.

“I’m Talking About School Disciplinary Issues, Throwing An Eraser, Chewing Gum, Too Much Perfume, Unbelievable Violations’ That Were Resulting In Misdemeanor Charges”
The Justice Department and the Education Department issued guidelines this year on school discipline that warn school-based police officers to “not become involved in routine school disciplinary matters,” and the Justice Department has filed lawsuits challenging disciplinary procedures around the country.

“We’re not talking about criminal behavior,” said Texas State Sen. John Whitmire, the Democratic chair of the senate’s Criminal Justice Committee, who helped pass a new law last year that limits how police officers can ticket students. “I’m talking about school disciplinary issues, throwing an eraser, chewing gum, too much perfume, unbelievable violations” that were resulting in misdemeanor charges.

Police, judges and civil-rights organizations all say schools are increasingly the way young people enter the justice system.

Data provided by a handful of local courts and the federal government tell a similar story.

According to the U.S. Education Department’s Office of Civil Rights, 260,000 students were reported, or “referred” in the official language, to law enforcement by schools in 2012, the most-recent available data.

The survey also said 92,000 students were subject to school-related arrests.

The number of school police officers rose 55% to about 19,000 in the 10 years to 2007, the last year for which numbers were available, according to a 2013 study from the Congressional Research Service.

The zero-tolerance approach started as part of the 1994 Gun-Free Schools Act, Mr. Fox said, but it expanded to other weapons, then to drug contraband and “finally into ordinary violations of school rules, disrespect, skipping. It eventually became an across the board response to discipline.”

Brushes with the criminal justice system go hand in hand with other negative factors.

A study last year of Chicago public schools by a University of Texas and a Harvard researcher found the high-school graduation rate for children with arrest records was 26%, compared with 64% for those without. The study estimated about one-quarter of the juveniles arrested in Chicago annually were arrested in school.

Another consequence: Arrest records, even when charges are dropped, often trail youngsters into adulthood. Records, especially for teenagers tried as adults, have become more accessible on the Internet, but are often incomplete or inaccurate. Employers, banks, college admissions officers and landlords, among others, routinely check records online.

Retired California juvenile court judge Leonard Edwards said the widespread assumption arrest records for juveniles are sealed is incorrect.

The former judge, now a consultant with the Center for Families, Children and the Courts, an arm of the state court system, said his research indicates only 10% of juveniles nationally know they must request records be closed or removed.
But that process is complicated and varies from state to state. Even terms like expungement and annulment carry different meanings depending on the state. The process usually requires a lawyer to maneuver the rules and to file requests through courts.

“Our Good-Hearted Belief That Kids Are Going To Get A Fair Shake Even If They Screwed Up Is An Illusion”

“Our good-hearted belief that kids are going to get a fair shake even if they screwed up is an illusion,” Judge Edwards said.

A science experiment that went awry turned into a 17-month battle for Kiera Wilmot and her mother as they tried to clear the honor student’s arrest record. According to the police report, she was on school grounds outside the classroom trying out an experiment that hadn’t been authorized by her teacher.

Ms. Wilmot, now 18, said she put a piece of aluminum inside a bottle with two ounces of toilet cleaner to see what would happen. The teen’s mother said she was trying to simulate a volcanic eruption.

“It popped,” blowing the top off the bottle, she said.

She was handcuffed by the school-resource office, escorted out of the Bartow, Fla., school and taken to a juvenile facility where she was charged with possessing or discharging firearms or weapons at school and making, throwing, possessing, projecting, placing or discharging a destructive device.

Amid a flurry of news coverage, the charges were dropped, but the arrest record remained.

Ms. Wilmot’s mother, Marie, said the Florida Department of Law Enforcement declined to expunge the record. A second attempt, this time as an adult, was approved last week by a judge, who ordered her records sealed, Marie Wilmot said.

The court action “can’t erase the trauma, pain or emotions, but this is a step towards truly moving on,” said Ms. Wilmot of her daughter, who is now a freshman at Florida Polytechnic University.

The Justice Department’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services hands out grants to local police departments to hire police officers who are assigned to schools. Its head, Ronald Davis, defended the role played by school-resource officers, but he also said officers should be focused on making schools safe. They shouldn’t “turn youthful exuberance or even willful defiance into crimes,” Mr. Davis said. “We got to give kids the space to be the same kids we were.”

Since 2013, schools who want to participate in the COPS program have to sign memorandums of understanding saying the officers won’t be used for disciplinary matters that should be handled by the school.
The juvenile court in Clayton County, Ga., has tried to address the problem. It received 46 misdemeanor school referrals in 1996, the year before police were placed on campuses, court records show. By 2003, referrals had grown to 1,147 for misdemeanors including school fights, disorderly conduct and disrupting school.

Chief juvenile court judge Steven Teske said 80% of the referrals were for African-Americans, in a system where 71% of the students were black. The Justice Department has charged that the impact of school arrests falls disproportionately on African-American students. It has a consent decree with one Mississippi school district over their school discipline policies, including arrests.

Clayton, a suburban county south of Atlanta, began changing its rules in 2003. Now, a first offense leads to a warning and a second to an education program. Only a third problem results in a misdemeanor charge and a court date. School misdemeanor referrals dropped 87% to 154 in 2013 from 2003, according to the court.

Other districts are trying similar programs. In Florida, school districts including Miami-Dade and Palm Beach have used a new state law to shift from arrests to issuing civil citations for nonviolent, first-time misdemeanors with penalties including community service. Students who finish avoid arrest records.

Arrests at schools were down 48% in 2012 from 2005, according to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

In Colorado, the Denver police and public schools agreed last year on how school-based police officers would be used, limiting their involvement in routine discipline. A state law passed in 2012 requires police departments to begin collecting statistics on involvement in school discipline.

In Texas this year, after the new law that recommends most complaints first be handled by school administrators went into effect, misdemeanor tickets issued for school-related violations fell 37% to about 90,000, according to state court data.

In Wake County, N.C., Mr. Perry was trying to avoid a water-balloon fight at school when he was taken into custody, according to a complaint filed with the Justice and Education Departments by Legal Aid of North Carolina charging that minority students are disproportionately disciplined.

The teen, his mother and the complaint all agree that authorities didn’t identify any criminal activity until Mr. Perry volunteered he had a small pocketknife he had used to carve a tree. “I didn’t even know I had a knife. I just threw on my pants that day,” he said.

The knife led to a weapons charge and a suspension.

The charge was dropped, according to his mother, Lynn Perry. The suspension and time spent at court hearings left him short of the classes he needed to graduate, Ms. Perry said. Now she worries whether he can get into college. “It’s been a complete nightmare, and we can’t afford to get this stuff expunged,” she said.

School had just started in Southaven, Miss., in 2012 when Rashe France and another student shoved each other in the hallway, the now-freshman said. Rashe,
who is now 14, his family, and the Advancement Project civil rights group said no fists were thrown. School officials called the police.

James Mathis, the boy’s grandfather, said Rashe was taken to the police station and charged with endangering the safety of other students.

The case was thrown out before it got to Youth Court for lack of evidence, the family said. The DeSoto County Youth Court didn’t respond to requests for comment.

Mr. Mathis worries what the arrest will do for his grandson’s future. Despite assurances from the school and police that the record is sealed, he doesn’t believe the record won’t one day surface.

Rashe has four colleges picked out. “I’m throwing that out of my mind,” he said. “I’m working on school—well, school and basketball.”

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**Ukrainian Election Ground Truth:**

“**People In Kiev Have Never Been Down Mines And Don’t Know What It’s Like**”

“‘We Feel Like Ukraine Doesn’t Want Us And DNR Doesn’t Want Us,’ She Said, Referring To The Separatist Donetsk People’s Republic A Few Miles Away”

Oct. 27, 2014 By Nick Shchetko in Kiev and James Marson in Krasnoarmiisk, Ukraine; Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

Pro-Western parties were expected to sweep parliamentary elections in Ukraine, exit polls showed, tilting the embattled former Soviet republic further toward Europe and away from Russia.

In the east, allies of Mr. Yanukovych picked up most votes, but turnout there was significantly down from previous elections, in which pro-Russia parties dominated the region.

At a polling station in the center of the mining town of Krasnoarmiisk in the east, election officials sat idle as voters arrived in ones and twos.

“People in Kiev have never been down mines and don’t know what it’s like,” said Irina Vasileva, head of the election commission at the polling station.
“We feel like Ukraine doesn’t want us and DNR doesn’t want us,” she said, referring to the separatist Donetsk People’s Republic a few miles away.

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**OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

Zionist Occupation Forces Imprison Ayman Nasser, As Usual:

“Nasser Is A Human Rights Defender And Actively Works On Human Rights Issues And Prisoners Affairs”

Nasser Has Previously Been Imprisoned

September 18, 2014 ADDAMEER (Arabic for conscience) Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association; Via Uruknet

Occupied Ramallah

In the early hours of this morning Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) re-arrested Ayman Nasser (44) from his home in the West Bank village of Saffa.

Nasser is the legal unit coordinator at Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association.

Nasser’s wife reported that “at 1:30AM, a large number of IOF raided our house while we were sleeping. We woke up to the sounds of heavy knocking on the front door and my husband, Ayman, rushed to open the door.

“Around 15 soldiers raided the house and started yelling at me and my children, demanding us to move to the living room.

“Six soldiers, including one female soldier, pointed their weapons at us while we waited in the living room.

“Half an hour later, a military officer identified Ayman and took him outside the house. Ayman returned with the officer after ten minutes, and said goodbye to us.”
Addameer utterly condemns the re-arrest of its legal unit coordinator which is clearly a continuation of the systematic targeting of Palestinian human rights organizations by Israeli forces which aim to criminalize their work, silence their voices and prevent them from carrying out their work in supporting all Palestinian political prisoners and detainees.

Nasser is a human rights defender and actively works on human rights issues and prisoners affairs.

Nasser’s arrest is a clear violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Human rights defenders are formally defined as persons who work peacefully for any or all of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Nasser clearly falls within the category, in that his activities are peaceful in nature and aimed at the promotion of human rights.

**Nasser has previously been imprisoned by IOF on two separate occasions.**

He was previously arrested on 15 October 2012 and spent 39 days under interrogation in Al-Moskobiyeh detention center in Jerusalem. He subsequently received a 13 months sentence and a 15 month suspended sentence for four years, in addition to 4000 NIS fine. Nasser was released on 21 October 2013.

Nasser was also arrested in 1992 and received a six year sentence. He was released on 27 October 1997.

Nasser holds a masters degree in Social Psychology of Education and previously lectured at Al-Quds Open University.

He is also the founder on Handala educational center in his village of Saffa, which is an educational center established in 1999 and is based on voluntary work that focuses on arts, athletics and education.

Nasser was also elected chairperson of Saffa Athletic Club twice since 2003. He was also elected as a member in the Municipal Council in Saffa village while he was still in prison.

Nasser is married and has four children.

Addameer demands that the international community take serious measures to ensure that the Israeli policy of arbitrary detention ceases and that all Palestinian political prisoners and detainees are released from occupation prisons.

‘This Is Our Land!’
West Bank Palestinian Village Defies Largest Zionist Land Confiscation In 30 Years: Nearly 1,000 Acres Of Palestinian Land Declared “State Land” By Israel “‘Of Course We Will Come Back Next Friday,’ Says Bera’a. 15-Year-Old Baitul Sits Next To Her, ‘I Will Never Leave,’ She Says”

Palestinian boys confront a soldier attempting to stop them from planting an olive tree. The boys refused to stop digging and the soldier eventually retreated. (Photo: Kelly Lynn)

September 18, 2014 by Kelly Lynn, Mondoweiss [Excerpts]

Wadi Fukin may be the smallest of the five villages threatened by Israel’s recent mass land grab, but these days it’s certainly not the quietest.

Leaders in the village of approximately 1,250 have galvanized locals into organizing Friday demonstrations against Israeli occupation for the first time in
years, after 4,000 dunams (nearly 1,000 acres) in the southern West Bank was declared “state land,” by Israel.

Over a quarter of the confiscated land belongs to Wadi Fukin, which already lost most of its property to the still expanding Israeli settlements of Beitar Illit and Hadar Beitar in the north and Tsur Hadassah in the west after 1967.

“They are planning to make us an island with the settlements surrounding us on all sides,” says Ahmad Sukar, head of the village council.

He laments the effect the occupation has had on the small farming community, citing armed settlers who come to picnic in the village’s only playground, or swim in the reservoirs used to irrigate crops.

“These days we are working in two ways. First within the law and the courts. Second, we are protesting to send a message to everyone – settlers, Israelis, Arabs – to show them how we live in Wadi Fukin.”

Sandwiched in a fertile valley between the Green Line and the nearby settlements, Wadi Fukin bears this recent blow in the context of a unique history.

After sustaining multiple raids in 1948 by the Zionist paramilitary group, Haganah, Israeli forces completely destroyed Wadi Fukin in the early 50’s with most locals fleeing to Jordan and nearby Dheisheh Refugee Camp.

In an exceptional circumstance, villagers were given the opportunity to return to their land and rebuild in 1972 by Israeli authorities, and have since successfully restored and repopulated the village.

It currently falls within Areas B and C, land under de-facto Israeli military and civil control.

On August 31st, four days after the Gaza ceasefire, residents of the Palestinian villages of Husan, Nahalin, Surif, Jabah and Wadi Fukin found dozens of yellow placards in Hebrew and Arabic, delineating the boundaries of the 4,000 dunams of Israeli ‘state land.’

Seen by many as an effort to placate criticism from the right of how he handled the assault on Gaza, Netanyahu announced the expropriation to a flurry of international condemnation.

The land grab is the largest of its kind in three decades.

The five affected villages surround what is left of the Bethlehem governorate, some of the most aggressively settled land in the West Bank. Plans for this land include construction on an arguably new settlement; Gvaot and allow for unimpeded passage for Israelis from the Gush Etzion settlement bloc to Jerusalem.

As is typical for Friday demonstrations throughout Palestine, the first protest began after midday prayers at the village mosque on September 5th. Israeli soldiers and border
police had already been positioned for over an hour on the hill where the action was to take place.

The craggy hillside has been allotted to the village’s only school, to be used as space for a playground or additional classrooms. If the land is seized and developed, locals worry for the safety of students having settlers in such close proximity and Sukar anticipates a daily presence of soldiers not unlike what schools in the neighboring village of Al Khader face.

A group of teenage girls had planted a Palestinian flag on the parcel of land before Israeli authorities removed it.

Boys paint a Palestinian flag on a hillside set to be appropriated as Israeli “state land.” (Photo: Kelly Lynn)

Activists opted for a more permanent symbol that first Friday, painting flags onto stones while others dispersed in groups, digging holes into fertile ground and planting olive tree saplings while soldiers attempted to block their efforts.

The group that pushed the farthest up the hillside was a pack of 12-year olds who successfully challenged and dismissed a soldier trying to obstruct them.

“Ardna!” they yelled. “This is our land.”

Eventually, a middle aged activist was grabbed by border police and Sukar attempted to de-arrest him, but not before being pepper sprayed in the face.

Soldiers released the activist but began firing tear gas and sound grenades toward the group of roughly 80 participants, many of whom were not used to the ubiquitous use of such methods by Israeli authorities.
For at least an hour following the protest, Israeli military and border police fired canisters directly into the village where locals scrambled to deal with the unfamiliar effects of tear gas.

40-year-old Nejah Manasra was present at the demonstration with her three children safe at home. As they clamored to see the commotion from their balcony, she screamed at them across the valley to go inside.

“It’s the first time this has happened in our village. We are a peaceful village. We are a small village and you see the Israeli homes next to ours. We don’t attack them. But the Israeli (soldiers) were preparing themselves for this and waiting for a moment to attack us,” she said.

Before Israeli forces evacuated the area, they uprooted the saplings from the ground and confiscated them, along with signs reading, “Stealing land makes you a thief, not a partner for peace.”

“Our message was peaceful, that this is our land. It is our right to use it, to cultivate it,” said Sukar. “Every Friday we will have a demonstration and wherever there is a land grab, they should do the same.”

The following week on September 12th, after midday prayers, a similar crowd gathered, this time headed toward the farmland near Beitar Illit’s sewage system, which frequently dumps wastewater into a portion of the valley where farmers cultivate the fruits and vegetables Wadi Fukin is known for.

Activists chanted in English, “1-2-3-4-occupation-no-more,” while Israeli settlers watched from homogenous beige balconies stacked atop each other. Several soldiers and border police followed from a comfortable distance.

A horde of boys scaled the hill and painted additional flags, occasionally whistling at the soldiers on the adjacent hill. There was no direct confrontation with Israeli forces but the same group of teenage girls that had planted the original flag two weeks prior came to join the procession as it made its way back to the village.

“Palestine is free! Wadi Fukin is free!,” they yelled toward the settlement. Long after most activists returned home, the group of youth stayed, wrapping themselves in keffiyeh’s, chanting and pulling stones and debris onto a dirt road to blockade a possible advancing Israeli jeep.

“If we don’t go there, who is going to look at us? They have to see us,” says 15-year-old Bera’a Manasra, whose home like most in Wadi Fukin, has a sprawling view of Beitar Illit.

It’s not yet clear if the village will reap the full spectrum of consequences involved in repression of Friday demonstrations by the Israeli military or how long the protests will continue. But unsurprisingly, the youth seem the most passionate.

“This is our land. And we saw what happened in Gaza. Of course we will come back next Friday,” says Bera’a.
Palestinian Prisoner Tortured To Death In Occupation Jail, As Usual:

“Israeli Authorities Claimed That He Had Hanged Himself”

“Jabari’s Autopsy Results Did Not Reveal Any Marks Around The Neck Which Refutes The Israeli Claim That He Had Hanged Himself”

19 September 2014 The Middle East Monitor

Raed Abdel-Salam Al-Jabari, a Palestinian prisoner held in an Israeli jail has died as a result of severe torture at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces, the head of Prisoners and Freed Prisoners Affairs in Ramallah Issa Qaraqe said.

Qaraqe accused Israel of committing two crimes against Jabari, 35, when the Israeli authorities claimed that he had hanged himself in prison in an attempt to hide the real reason for his death, torture. Al-Jabari was imprisoned on July 26 in Eshel prison.

Speaking during a press conference in Hebron, Qaraqe said: “Jabari’s autopsy report, which was conducted at the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Abu Dis, revealed that he had been subjected to severe torture which resulted in internal bleeding and severe concussion that led to his death.”

He stressed that “Jabari’s autopsy results did not reveal any marks around the neck which refutes the Israeli claim that he had hanged himself.” Qaraqe had previously said that several prisoners who were imprisoned with Al-Jabari testified that he was severely beaten by the Nahshon forces when he was transferred to Eshel prison.

To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, check out:
http://www.palestinechronicle.com/

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”
DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

IF VOTING DIDN'T MATTER, WHY WOULD THE TWO PARTIES FIGHT SO HARD FOR YOUR VOTE?

REPUBLICANS ARE PUSHING VOTER ID LAWS THAT DISENFRANCHISE POOR, MINORITY DEMOCRATS.

IF YOU DON'T VOTE, THEY WIN!

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