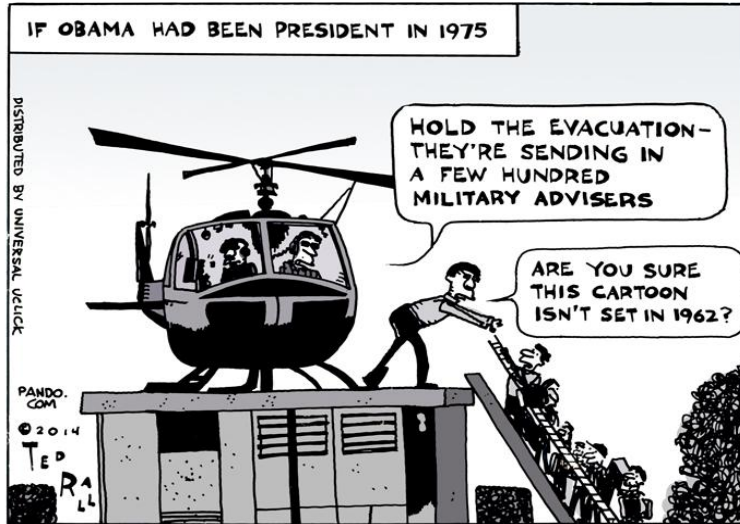


Military Resistance 12L10



A Poem, A Poem Attacked, And The Reply

Introduction: T

For many years, Military Resistance Newsletter has been proud to print the magnificent poetry of Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran, sent to this Newsletter by Brother Serdel as poems are finished and ready for publication.

One, *Teenage Nazis*, carried in this newsletter September 2013, was later reprinted in *The Veteran, Spring 2014*, published by Vietnam Veterans Against The War.

That poem was attacked in a Letter To The Editor of *The Veteran, Fall 2014*.

Below you will find:

1. The poem *Teenage Nazis*
2. The Letter To The Editor from *The Veteran, Fall 2014*, attacking it.
3. A new poem by Dennis Serdel in reply: *Stabbed In The Back By A Saigon Warrior*

#1: The Poem: Teenage Nazis

[Later reprinted in Fall 2014 issue of *The Veteran*. T]

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: September 26, 2013
Subject: Teenage Nazis

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

Teenage Nazis

Roy did not know who his father was
raised up in Jersey City, New Jersey
He grows tired of living on the dirty part of town
Joins the Marines at the age of seventeen
they teach him how to kill in many different ways
Roy loves the power that has been given to him
They then send him to Vietnam
to join the other Nazis
When he goes to his first village
a mamason runs up to him
No VC Here No VC Here she nervously says
Roy takes his Ka-Bar & stabs her in the gut
when a little boy sees his grandma go down
he runs to her & says something in Vietnamese
Roy takes his 45 & shoots the boy in the head
Another Nazi grabs a papason by the neck
throws him down the well & takes his silver 38
with pearl handles that his Nazi Dad sent to him
& unloads it on papason down in the well
Other kids run to their grandmas & grandpas
as the Marine Nazis kick them with their jack boot
jungle boots & then leave
In the next close village there are no Vietnamese
in the open anywhere
They are all hiding in their mound bomb shelter
covered with grass, but the Vietnam Nazis
throw hand grenades into the tunnels inside it
when they hear the screams they throw
in more & then leave
they know it will make the VC insane mad in the area
about their mothers, fathers, wives & children

The American Nazis have become good
at finding booby traps & land mines
But when 3 of their own hit different ones in one day
They kill & burn down 6 villages in a row
When they hear of My Lai, they have to admit that
the Army Nazis who did this
should all get Silver Stars
But then in a quiet village they get bored
so they take a papason & tie him to a tree
& take turns bayoneting him just for fun
while in another hut the American nazis
gang rape a little girl
When Roy kills his first VC, he cuts the head off
& puts it on a long thick stick
Later he carries it down Highway 1
to the American Nazi base camp & digs
a hole & puts the stick head in the ground
with rocks to hold it for all to see
When Roy flies home after his Tour
of the American Nazi War he has ribbons
& a Bronze Star & Silver Star for killing
the most Vietnamese enemies VC NVA or not
His photo makes the front page of the
Local Newspaper as a hero killing the
most Vietnamese of his whole Company
After a couple of days Roy wears his jeans
& an old T-shirt & walks along the boardwalk
on the Jersey shore
A police man who saw his photo tips his hat
to Roy when he walks by & then with the lights on
& the ocean breeze, another man recognizes
him too & shakes Roy's hard hand & asks him
what are you going to do, Roy says probably
work at the docks, the Mob man shakes
his head & says you deserve better than that
& he has a high paying job offer with
little work, the Mob man sets up a 9 o'clock
breakfast for both of them the next day.

Written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

#2: The Poem Attacked: [RE: Teenage Nazis]

“I Am Writing To Express My Strenuous Objection To The Piece By Dennis Serdel”

“I Found This Piece Disgraceful And Utterly Inappropriate For A Publication Named *The Veteran*”

Letter To The Editor, by Tim Teater, *The Veteran*, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, Fall 2014

My name is Tim Teater. I have been a member and supporter of VVAW since my return from Vietnam.

I am writing to express my strenuous objection to the piece by Dennis Serdel. (Poem on page 37 of Spring 2014 issue of *The Veteran* – ed.)

First, we all know that atrocities were committed by all sides and it is important that these be addressed openly and forthrightly. However, I am not sure that I believe what this person has written. If this is a factual account then I would say the acts were those of a psychopath and not representative of Vietnam Veterans.

If this was fiction, to what end was it written? Haven't we Vietnam Veterans endured enough shit without being defamed by a fellow vet?

Secondly however, the greater problem with this piece was the bandying about of the term Nazi. This trivializes the atrocity that was Nazism which was responsible, along with Imperial Japan, for the deaths of over 60 million human beings.

From the title, *Teenage Nazis*, are we supposed to believe Vietnam Veterans are analogous to Nazis? I find both the piece and the intimation repugnant. I found this piece disgraceful and utterly inappropriate for a publication named *The Veteran*.

#3: [Reply] Stabbed In The Back By A Saigon Warrior

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter

Sent: December 19, 2014
Subject: "Stabbed In the Back By A Saigon Warrior"

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

Stabbed In The Back By A Saigon Warrior

**Vietnam Johnny was walking down
the sidewalk of his hometown
when he heard some noise
from a bush and then he turned
around and there was Vietnam Tim
with a knife ready to stab him
in the back
Johnny screamed at him
and shook his head
shouts at Vietnam Tim
"What the hell's wrong with you
to stab another Vietnam Vet in the back
are you crazy insane or a psychopath?"
Vietnam Johnny says
"By using the word SHIT, I can tell
that you haven't worked through
what happened to you in Vietnam,
you were raped by your Belief System
and can not say you were a Nazi."
The average age of WWII combat
Soldiers was 26,
while in Vietnam, the average
age of Vietnam combat Soldiers
was 19 year old teenagers,
most of the poem "Teenage Nazis"
is True and it is true that when
you went into a village,
a mamason would quickly tell you ,
"No VC here" and then you
look around & there are just old
mamasons and pappasons
young Vietnamese women
with their children and when
we ask where the fathers are
of all these children, they just look away.
What would happen when one
of your men kills an old pappason
Vietnam Tim, did I hear you say "Nothing."
What about the rapes Vietnam Tim,
the raping of your mind
the raping of young Vietnamese**

female children, "Can you stuff that
down your throat Vietnam Tim
and then shit it out," says Vietnam Johnny.
"What fucking war were you in Vietnam Tim,
were you playing paddy cake with the children
or burning down their village."
"Don't worry Vietnam Tim,
just join up with some
Vietnam Winter Soldiers Veterans
or you can join the VFW or
American Legion, they are running
out of Veterans to put flags
on their graves and they also are
the same ones who fought the Nazis
the ones who bombed Berlin
to a rubble, the ones who did Not care
about the concentration camps,
all they wanted to do is kill the Nazis
just like our My Lai and all the other
My Lai's as we slaughtered
the Vietnamese people
enemy or not, what's the matter
Vietnam Tim, should we change
the Vietnam War to just say
we were Not like the Nazis
because you can't hear the B-52's
flying way up in the sky taking out
Towns and bombing Hanoi and Artillery
taking out Vietnam Villages
from 5 miles away
"How do you look at the Vietnam War,
Vietnam Tim" or instead of cramming
it down your throat, maybe Vietnam
Johnny should cram it up your ass.
All the German Nazis after WWII,
just said they were following Orders
and the Nazi Soldiers loved their wives
& children Vietnam Teenage Nazi Tim.

Dennis Serdel
Light Infantry
Vietnam 1968

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Army Staff Sergeant From Noblesville Killed During Combat In Afghanistan



December 4, 2014 by Amanda Rakes - Digital Manager, Fox 59

AFGHANISTAN — An Army staff sergeant from Noblesville, Ind. was killed in Afghanistan, said the U.S. Department of Defense Thursday.

Staff Sgt. Matthew R. Ammerman, 29, died on Dec. 3 in Zabul Province, Afghanistan after suffering a gunshot wound he sustained in combat during a clearing operation, said officials.

Ammerman was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

“Staff Sgt. Matthew Ammerman was an exceptional Soldier in all regards. He showed himself to be a standout shortly after arrival in the unit and his efforts have made an impact on his unit and our mission. We, as a nation, are fortunate to have men like Matt,” said Lt. Col. Tommy Stoner, commander of the 7th SFG (A)’s 3rd Battalion. “He not only represented what we should all aspire to be, but he lived it. His loss is a great blow and he will be missed and mourned by this unit. Our focus will be supporting his family in any way possible and ensuring that they are taken care of during this difficult process.”

Ammerman joined the Army in July 2004.

He was deployed in 2006 to Iraq, where he served 14 months.

In 2009, Ammerman was sent to Afghanistan for 12 months, serving as an assistant gunner, fire team leader and squad leader.

Two years later, the sergeant was stationed at Fort Steward, Ga., where he served as a senior sniper and squad leader with the 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment. He volunteered for Special Forces in 2012, graduated in 2013 as a Special Forces

communications sergeant and was assigned to 3rd Bn., 7th SFG (A) in July, 2014. He deployed in late fall of 2014 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 29-year-old was a decorated hero, earning numerous awards, including the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon and NATO Medal. Additionally, he received the Special Forces Tab, the Ranger Tab, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge and the Driver and Mechanic Badge.

Gov. Mike Pence released a statement Friday: "Today, Indiana mourns fallen Staff Sergeant Matthew R. Ammerman who lost his life this week defending the freedoms of this great nation. He is a true Hoosier hero in every sense of the word, and his courageous service and sacrifice will be remembered always. The First Lady and I extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends and hold them in prayer during this difficult time."

Sen. Joe Donnelly also offered his condolences: "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of fallen Army Staff Sergeant Matthew Ammerman, a native of Noblesville. Sergeant Ammerman was an American hero, and we are proud to call him a fellow Hoosier. We remember and honor his service and ultimate sacrifice."

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

MILITARY NEWS

**VA Malpractice Infects Veterans
With Hepatitis C:
"Renegar Was Shaken By His
Treatment After The Infection. The
V.A. Ignoring His Concerns,**

Denying His Claims, And Fighting Him In Court”

“You Feel Like You’re Discarded. And Like It’s All A Matter Of Money”

“He Is Not Alone – The Agency Has Rejected Most Medical Malpractice Claims Associated With The Botched Colonoscopies”

“After sending a letter stating that they had done something wrong and ... exposed them to contaminants, they send a letter out after receiving the claims(that) they did nothing wrong”

12/19/14 By Ronan Farrow and Rich Gardella, NBC UNIVERSAL [Excerpts]

John Renegar Jr., wearing a careworn baseball cap emblazoned with “101st Airborne”, surveyed his small living room in Smyrna Tennessee and shrugged.

“It just makes you think you don’t mean nothin’ to anybody, you know,” the 66 year old Vietnam vet said. “You served a country, but you don’t mean anything to her.”

Renegar is referring to his treatment by the Department of Veteran Affairs.

He’s one of thousands of veterans to receive a bombshell of a letter in 2009 – warning them that they may have been exposed to life-threatening infections as a result of misconfigured or unclean colonoscopy equipment.

He’s also one of a smaller group to subsequently test positive for a serious infection – in his case, chronic hepatitis that will leave him at risk for life-threatening liver damage for the rest of his life.

But Renegar was just as shaken by his treatment after the infection – with the V.A. ignoring his concerns, denying his claims, and eventually fighting him in court.

Documents obtained by NBC News show he is not alone – in fact, the agency has quietly rejected most of the medical malpractice claims associated with the botched colonoscopies.

Renegar said he believes he contracted his case of hepatitis during a colonoscopy at the V.A.’s Alvin C. York Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee on Oct. 30, 2003. “You know you’ve lived a clean life and hadn’t done any kind of drugs or ... been running

around on my wife or anything,” he said. “... I don’t know of anywhere else I could have got it.”

He was among 6,387 patients deemed at risk after procedures at that facility between April 23, 2003 and Dec. 1, 2008.

Staff at the Murfreesboro clinic first discovered the problem after seeing blood in the tubing of a water system used for irrigation during colonoscopies on Dec. 1, 2008, according to a 2009 report by the V.A.’s inspector general. An investigation by the hospital determined that a required one-way valve had been absent during procedures performed that day, and that the water system tubing had not been disinfected or discarded per the manufacturer’s instructions.

Investigators later determined that the original valve on the water system had been replaced by one intended for use during the cleaning process, which lacked the one-way valve designed to prevent the backflow of bodily fluids into the water tube.

A review panel couldn’t determine when the switch occurred, according to the report – so it ordered the V.A. to notify all 6,387 veterans who had undergone colonoscopies at the hospital dating back to the April 23, 2003 delivery of the equipment by the manufacturer.

Valorie Hoermann, a U.S. army veteran who served in the Middle East, worked as a physician’s assistant in primary care at the Murfreesboro facility – though not in the department that performed the colonoscopies. She didn’t witness the problems herself, but says that they were common knowledge there.

Individuals with knowledge of the procedures told her “that the blood and the saline that came from another patient was going into another.”

She says the staff didn’t speak up for one reason: “Fear. Fear. That’s the only thing I can say.”

The problems weren’t limited to Murfreesboro.

A broader investigation found that medical staff at the Bruce W. Carter V.A. Medical Center in Miami also endangered patients by failing to perform required cleaning of the colonoscopy equipment between procedures from May 2004 until Feb. 12, 2009.

In that case, the V.A. sent letters to 3,260 veterans warning them they could have been infected.

Sixteen other V.A. facilities reported that that they had not been compliant with colonoscopy “reprocessing” (cleaning) guidelines, but review panels determined that the risk of infection at those facilities was minimal and did not send warning letters to veterans, according to the report.

The agency has previously acknowledged that errors involving equipment and cleaning procedures may have exposed more than 10,000 veterans to viral infections. The risk resulted from “a small amount of bodily fluid remaining (in the equipment) from the

previous patient's procedure," it said in that letter Renegar and others received, alerting them to the safety lapse.

For the veterans exposed to the risk of infection, the agency offered precautionary blood tests. It now reports that 92 of the veterans tested positive for those viral infections – 71 for hepatitis C, 13 for hepatitis B and eight for HIV, which causes AIDS.

Records obtained by NBC News through a Freedom of Information Act reveals that 76 veterans filed malpractice claims against the V.A. as a result of the lapses – including 21 who subsequently tested positive for infections. The others claimed non-physical harm from the stress of knowing they were at risk.

The records also reveal a consistent response: the V.A. denied most of the claims.

"Our investigation did not disclose any negligent acts or omissions by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs acting within the scope of their employment ... for which the V.A. would be liable," it said in a letter informing the veterans of its decision. "Accordingly, this claim is denied."

It was that move – turning the veterans into legal adversaries, that hurt some the most.

"I think in plain language, they should have come to each of these affected soldiers and told them, 'this is what happened to you,'" says Phillip Wayne Bell, a 66-year-old former sergeant major in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves who saw combat in Vietnam, Bosnia and Iraq. He has hepatitis B – contracted, he believes, from his V.A. colonoscopy. He wants the V.A. to "acknowledge that it's happened. And it's our fault. We did it. We caused it."

Attorney Mike Sheppard, a self-described Army brat whose father and brother were combat veterans, said the V.A.'s denial of the veterans' medical claims defies comprehension.

"After sending a letter stating that they had done something wrong and ... exposed them to contaminants, they send a letter out after receiving the claims (that) they did nothing wrong," said Sheppard, who represented 40 veterans who filed claims, all of which were denied. "... That makes no sense."

After the V.A. denied most claims filed as a result of the errors at the Murfreesboro and Miami hospitals, Sheppard said he tried to engage the V.A. in a dialogue "to discuss how they could all do the right thing for all the affected veterans."

When those efforts were rebuffed, he said, he filed negligence lawsuits on behalf of nine of the veterans in federal court in Tennessee, seeking significant financial awards. The V.A. response, he said, was to argue in court that no one could definitively determine whether the veterans' injuries were caused by the colonoscopies.

That put the veterans in a Catch-22 situation, he said, because the V.A. refused to provide the veterans' full medical records and other documentation that might enable "mapping actual chains of infection."

Attorneys for the V.A. did, however, produce a “schedule of exams” in response to Renegar’s lawsuit that indicated that patients who got colonoscopies before him on the same day all were negative for hepatitis, raising doubt about the source of his infection.

In the end, the federal court in Tennessee dismissed all the lawsuits filed by veterans there, including Bell’s and Renegar’s, largely on the technical grounds of the government’s arguments and the state’s required burden of proof for such cases.

Some veterans in Florida, which has a different burden of proof, have fared better. A federal court there awarded more than \$1 million to one veteran who allegedly contracted hepatitis C during his colonoscopy, and the man’s wife. The V.A. settled another lawsuit filed by a veteran who argued he was infected with HIV during his colonoscopy for an undisclosed amount. Both men underwent their procedures at the V.A. medical center in Miami.

The legal wrangling with the V.A. over their illnesses has left both Bell and Renegar with bitter feelings toward the agency, which they say has treated them as opponents, not men who risked their lives to defend their country.

“You feel like you’re discarded. And you feel like it’s all a matter of money,” Bell said.

Both men say their infections have disrupted their lives in ways that have nothing to do with concern over how it might impact their health.

“She loves me and I love her,” Renegar said of his wife of 43 years, Rowena. “But we just don’t seem to have the real closeness that we used to have before that.”

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

<p>One way to stop the next war is to continue to tell the truth about this one. -- Kathy Kelly</p>
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What The U.S. War On ISIS Looks Like From Iraq: “The U.S. Is Redoubling Its Support For The Iraqi Government, Which Means Supporting The Shia Militias”

**“The U.S. Is Inadvertently Ensuring
That There Will Be Continued Chaos
In The Middle East”**

**“Stopping These Interventions Would
Require A Mass Antiwar Movement--
Including Among American Soldiers--
Like The Type We Saw During Vietnam”**

December 10, 2014 Interview with Anand Gopal by Ashley Smith; Socialist Worker newspaper. [Excerpts] Transcription by Karen Domínguez Burke.

Journalist Anand Gopal has written from Afghanistan and other Middle East war zones for the Wall Street Journal and the Christian Science Monitor, and has reported on the Middle East and South Asia for Harper's, The Nation, The New Republic, Foreign Policy and other publications. His new book, *No Good Men Among the Living: America, the Taliban and War Through Afghan Eyes* is a finalist for the National Book Award.

After returning from assignment in Iraq, Anand is interviewed by Ashley Smith about the situation today as the U.S. continues its new war against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Smith: What are some of the regional dimensions of the Obama's war in Syria and Iraq?

Gopal: First of all, the U.S. has, for a while, backed the Sunni Gulf states against Shia Iran. These powers have taken opposite sides in Syria and Iraq. Iran is supporting the Shia militias and the Iraqi government in Iraq. In Syria, Iran supports Assad and Lebanon's Hezbollah, which is fighting on behalf of the regime.

On the other hand, the Gulf states like Qatar and Saudi Arabia are supporting extremist Sunnis in Syria. So in many ways, there is proxy war going on in Syria and Iraq between Iran and the Sunni Gulf States.

Second, this is all taking place in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. Throughout the region, people stood up and tried to reclaim their lives and overthrow oppressive dictatorships, and in most cases, they have not succeeded for a variety of reasons.

All this seems like a defeat of the Arab Spring. But I actually think it's not that. Rather, I believe it's a consequence of the fact that there are no progressive forces strong enough to provide an alternative to the Islamists' sectarianism.

So the Islamists have filled a vacuum.

But at the end of the day, these Islamist groups, as we saw in Egypt, are not going to be able to address the fundamental problems that people rose up to change.

They will not put an end to the authoritarianism and class inequalities that sparked the revolt. So there remains space for an alternative to emerge, even if it may take many years or a generation.

How much is there an inter-imperialist dynamic at play in this war?

There certainly is an inter-imperial dynamic, particularly in Syria, between Russia and the U.S.

Initially, the U.S. seemed committed to overthrowing Assad's regime, which Russia backs. But the U.S. focus on ISIS seems to have changed that. The U.S. is so focused on ISIS that it's retreated from almost any plan for regime change. Instead, all you hear

about now from the U.S. is ISIS. I think it's one of these cases where America's short-term project of anti-terrorism has preempted its long-term rivalry with Russia and China.

What is Obama aiming to achieve with this war?

There are multiple aims. First, there is the general aim, which is independent of the particular moment, to make the Middle East safe for American interests. Obama, like Bush before him, wants to cultivate client states in Iraq and Syria and Afghanistan and elsewhere.

However, the U.S. didn't account for the Arab Spring. It didn't account for the fact that Syrians would rise up. It didn't account for the Sunni rising in Iraq. As a result of these events, the Obama administration has been forced to adjust its long-term aims in order to achieve short-term ones.

The U.S. is committed to defeating ISIS and forging alliances to accomplish this short-term objective--even though this objective is, in a sense, at odds with long-term aims.

For example, the U.S. now seems willing to accept a Baathist state in Syria, albeit with token representation from the opposition.

In Iraq, the U.S. is prepared to rely on the Iraqi government, which is very closely allied with its archenemy Iran, even though this government and its militias are largely responsible for the current incarnation of the Sunni insurgency in Iraq.

Nevertheless, the U.S. is redoubling its support for the Iraqi government, which means, in effect, also supporting the Shia militias. By doing so, the U.S. is inadvertently ensuring that there will be continued chaos in the Middle East for many years to come.

What should people in the antiwar movement and committed to social justice be saying about this whole situation?

First, we should remind people that this disastrous situation is the result of the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003. Its invasion and occupation is the cause of today's crisis.

ISIS grew out of the Sunni insurgency that was a response to that invasion. To defeat that insurgency, the U.S. turned to divide-and-rule tactics to keep the Sunni and Shia resistance apart, setting in motion the sectarian logic that led to civil war.

When I was in Baghdad, I was struck by how deeply divided that city still is. If you are Sunni, there are whole Shia neighborhoods that are still too dangerous for you to go to. You can get dragged out to the streets and killed. This is the legacy of the civil war that the U.S. unleashed.

Second, further intervention will likely only make the situation worse.

People often ask what can be done about groups like ISIS? As the situation in Syria shows, Syrian activists and revolutionaries are capable of heroically resisting ISIS, and we can help them in that effort by exposing the problems caused by the current U.S. interventions.

But exposing is only the first step.

Stopping these interventions would require a mass antiwar movement--including among American soldiers--like the type we saw during Vietnam.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

[Breaking News] 2 NYPD Cops Fatally Shot 'Execution Style' As 'Revenge' For Garner

December 20, 2014 New York Post

MORE:



“President Kennedy never foresaw that the chickens would come home to roost so soon...Being an old farm boy myself, chickens coming home to roost never did make me sad; they always made me glad.”

Black Muslim leader Malcolm X (1925-1965)
His answer when asked how he felt about John F. Kennedy's assassination
Press conference, December 1, 1963

Crowd Erupts As Cop Beats Handcuffed Boy:

The Victim Was Questioned – “The Boys Being Arrested Were Not The Ones Who Pushed Him”

December 19, 2014 By Zaid Jilani, AlterNet

The cell phone video of Eric Garner may not have resulted in a trial for the police officers who choked him to death, but New Yorkers are still recording incidents of police using over-the-top force against African Americans.

In a recent video recorded by an onlooker on the streets of New York City, several large uniformed cops have a young African-American boy subdued and pinned against a car, when a white plainclothes police officer runs up and throws several punches at the immobilized boy.

The video clearly shows that there is no reason or justification for this, and the bystanders erupt in horror, particularly one outspoken woman.

“He’s 12! she shouts. Why would you do that? After everything that’s happened! I’m a lawyer; I’m writing all this down.”

“Stop it, get off of him “ yells another.

“You guys...need a different profession. Go to war, this is not a war, this is a 12-year-old kid!” says a woman standing on the sidewalk facing the officers, who do not respond to her. Another boy is pinned by other officers against another car. He cries out as the officers yank his hands behind his back.

The woman who captured the video is actually actress Sarah Donegy. On the YouTube page where the video was posted, she explained that the incident started when officers accused the two boys being arrested for pushing a classmate down.

Donegy said the victim was questioned and that the boys being arrested were not the ones who pushed him.

This and other videos being shot around New York City signal that residents, particularly African Americans, have reached a point where they will not allow brutal arrests to go undocumented and unprotested.

This is just one of the ways people are fighting back.

The NYPD has engaged its Internal Affairs unit to investigate the officer caught throwing the punches. While the onlookers claim the boy being beaten was 12 years old, the police say he is 16.

“Florida Cop Pulled Over Man Playing N.W.A.’S Song ‘Fuck Tha Police’ While Driving To Mother’s House”

Worthless Piece Of Shit “Issued Baldelomar A Ticket For Lacking Proof Of Car Insurance (Even Though The Civilian Offered It), Not Wearing Seatbelt, And Having Out-Of-State License”

December 15, 2014 by Brendan James, TPM Media LLC & Dec. 16, 2014 by Thom Hartmann, thomhartmann.com/

On Thanksgiving Day, a Florida cop pulled over a man who dared to play N.W.A.’s famous song "Fuck Tha Police" while driving to his mother’s house in northwest Miami.

"Really?" officer Harold Garzon said to the driver at a stoplight in northwest Miami, the Miami New Times reported.

"You’re really playing that song? Pull over," he reportedly said.

Garzon, who according to the New Times has weathered 16 internal affairs cases against him, claimed that it was illegal to play loud music within 25 feet of another person. But he had pulled over a law student: Cesar Baldelomar, 26.

"In 2012 the state supreme court struck down any law banning loud music," Baldelomar told the New Times. "I knew that because it was a case I had actually studied in law school."

Undeterred, the officer reportedly issued Baldelomar a ticket for lacking proof of car insurance (even though the civilian offered it), not wearing his seatbelt, and having an out-of-state license.

The paper reported that the young Harvard grad is planning to fight the tickets in court.

Video Surfaces Of Cop Bullying Girlfriend Of Man Police

**Butchered In Walmart For
Holding A BB Gun:
“Accusing Her Of Lying,
Threatening Her With Jail, And
Suggesting That She Was High On
Drugs”**

**“Under Ohio’s Open-Carry Firearms
Laws And Walmart’s Regulations, He
Would Have Been Allowed To Carry A
Real Rifle With Him Around The
Store”**

**“A Grand Jury Decided In September
That Williams And Another Officer
Involved Should Not Face Criminal
Charges”**



Tressa Sherrod with her son, John Crawford III. Photograph: AP

14 December 2014 by Jon Swaine in New York, Guardian News and Media Limited

Police aggressively questioned the tearful girlfriend of a young black man they had just shot dead as he held a BB gun in an Ohio supermarket – accusing her of lying, threatening her with jail, and suggesting that she was high on drugs.

Tasha Thomas was reduced to swearing on the lives of her relatives that John Crawford III had not been carrying a firearm when they entered the Walmart in Beavercreek, near Dayton, to buy crackers, marshmallows and chocolate bars on the evening of 5 August.

“You lie to me and you might be on your way to jail,” detective Rodney Curd told Thomas, as she wept and repeatedly offered to take a lie-detector test.

After more than an hour and a half of questioning and statement-taking, Curd finally told Thomas that Crawford, 22, had died. “As a result of his actions, he is gone,” said the detective, as she slumped in her chair and cried.

Crawford had been shot by police officer Sean Williams, after a customer called 911 and claimed the 22-year-old was pointing a gun at passersby.

Surveillance footage released later showed Crawford picking up the BB rifle from a shelf, wandering the aisles and occasionally swinging the gun at his side while he spoke on his cellphone to his ex-girlfriend.

A 94-minute police video recording, released to the Guardian by the office of Mike DeWine, the Ohio attorney general, in response to a public records request, shows Thomas, 26, being interviewed by Curd after she was driven from Walmart to the Beavercreek police department.

Curd later told investigators he had not yet been told Crawford only had a BB gun that had been on sale at the store.

Curd promptly asked Thomas whether she and Crawford had criminal records. Already tearful and breathless, Thomas explained that she may have had some traffic offences and had been arrested for petty theft as a juvenile.

The detective then became increasingly aggressive and banged on the table between them with his hand.

“Tell me where he got the gun from,” Curd repeated. Thomas insisted Crawford had been carrying only a white plastic grocery bag when they arrived at Walmart to buy the ingredients to make s’mores at a family cook-out.

Asked one of several times whether Crawford owned a gun, Thomas said: “Not that I know.”

Curd told her: “Don’t tell me ‘not that you know’, because that’s the first thing I realise somebody’s not telling me the truth”.

He later repeated: "You need to tell me the truth" and "You need to be truthful."

Crawford's family and their attorneys have stressed since his death that under Ohio's open-carry firearms laws and Walmart's regulations, he would have been allowed to carry a real rifle with him around the store.

Crawford was talking on his cellphone to LeeCee Johnson, the mother of his two sons, when he was shot by Williams.

Curd repeatedly suggested to Thomas that Johnson, who was in fact at home in Cincinnati, may also have been in the Walmart store and that Crawford was there to attack her.

"Did he ever mention 'I'm going to shoot that bitch' or something like that?" the detective asked Thomas, who insisted that Crawford had not.

Johnson, whom Thomas had never met, was miles away and listened over the phone while Crawford died.

At several points during the interview Thomas swore to God, and on the lives of her three children, the grave of her late brother and "on everything I have" that she was telling the truth, but Curd remained dismissive.

Curd also pushed Thomas on whether she was intoxicated, asking her: "Have you been drinking? Drugs? Your eyes are kind of messed-up looking".

After she told him that Crawford had smelled of marijuana, Curd took down notes. He went on to ask whether Crawford had been suicidal.

The detective, a 26-year veteran of Beavercreek, was interviewed about his involvement in the case three days later, by two special agents from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, which had taken over the inquiry.

Curd explained to the agents that he "believed the deceased had brought a weapon into the Walmart and geared the interview with that assumption".

"Curd stated that he became aggressive during the interview with Thomas because of his (Curd) disbelief that if Mr Crawford brought a gun inside Walmart, Ms Thomas didn't see the gun," the agents noted in their report, which was released by the Ohio attorney general's office in September.

After the case was handed to a special prosecutor, a grand jury decided in September that Williams and another officer involved should not face criminal charges.

Williams was in 2010 responsible for the only other fatal police shooting in Beavercreek's recent history.

How Police Are Revamping Their Tactics To Ensure Safer Practices: “This Can All Legally Be Thrown Out The Window If A Cop Feels Threatened”



Dec 12, 2014 THE ONION

In the wake of widespread protests against police brutality and discrimination, law enforcement departments across the country are instituting new rules and policies to ensure safer practices.

Here are some of the ways departments are reforming their training, tactics, and management in light of scrutiny:

- Improved training to ensure that combat-ready assault rifles are not misused in the course of community policing
- Armored vehicles to be decorated with murals celebrating the communities in which they are deployed
- Switching to new all-organic tear gas blend
- New funding for outreach programs to encourage better relationships between officers and their fathers
- Officers to de-escalate tense situations by drawing progressively smaller firearms
- iPads somehow incorporated
- Disgraced law enforcement officials to be given even smaller desks than normal
- Cops encouraged to report the misdeeds of their fellow officers, thereby sabotaging their own careers

•Ensure this can all legally be thrown out the window if a cop feels threatened

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Beijia 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, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

**Left21, A Network Of Left-Wing
Forces In Hong Kong, Sends
Solidarity To Protesters Against
Police Violence In The US:
“In Hong Kong, We Too Are Fed Up
With Government On Behalf Of The**

Wealthy Few, And Willing To Use Police To Keep Us From Speaking Out”

**“How Can Democracy Exist When These
State Institutions Of Courts And Law
Enforcement Are Ridden With Injustice?”**



Masses of people fill the streets of the Central district in Hong Kong (Pasu Au Yeung)

Via Socialist Worker newspaper, December 11, 2014

From Hong Kong to Ferguson and New York City, we send you our warmest solidarity!

No to injustice! No to white supremacy!

It was outrageous that the grand jury failed to indict Darren Wilson, who had shot unarmed 18-year-old Mike Brown.

We agree with you that "The whole damn system is guilty as hell."

It was even more outrageous when, after that, the police officer in Eric Garner's case was also not indicted!

How can anyone trust the justice system when the police can shoot you dead, even though you are unarmed, before you even reach a court? And when a man is killed by a policeman using an illegal chokehold, and it is recorded on video, but the policeman is still not even indicted?

All the common-sense evidence points to systematic bias within the police, within the courts and within government. How can democracy exist when these state institutions of courts and law enforcement are ridden with injustice? It is clear to us that genuine democratic governance does not exist in American society.

In Ferguson, the jarring truth of racism and injustice explode with the case of Mike Brown, generating collective outrage against this system that produces these problems. We all know he is, sadly, only one of many casualties of racist America.

We are aware that Black and poor communities in America face state violence, not only in the form of police shootings. It manifests in other aspects of your lives: unemployment, racist welfare laws, disproportionate policing, housing segregation and health disparities.

We recognize that the police are not taking responsibility for your safety. Instead, not only do they squash dissent and free expression, they are sending in military ammunition into the streets of Ferguson. It seems that the U.S. government and the police forces in your country are willing to use aspects of the military violence they have imposed on the people of Iraq and Afghanistan.

To the community of Ferguson and to those who care about justice and racial equality in the U.S., we hope you keep going--keep fighting for what is right! Racial inequality is being used to justify and enable economic inequality and exclusion!

Here in Hong Kong, we, too, are fed up with our government doing things on behalf of the wealthy few, and being willing to use the police to keep us from speaking out about injustice and broken promises.

We have not had a genuine democracy, either under British colonial rule, nor now, under our "high degree of autonomy" within "one country, two systems" under the Chinese government.

We have a small legislature dominated by the wealthy, and our chief executive was elected by only 689 votes in the last election.

Under our undemocratic system slanted towards the wealthy, our poverty rate has been climbing, housing has gotten less affordable, and 40 percent of our elderly are in poverty.

The government has poured billions of dollars into development projects, refused to increase taxes on the wealthy, and still cries out that it lacks money to provide a decent universal elderly pension.

In short, citizens are being excluded from the community's wealth, and the "order" and "harmony" we see in society is only the smooth surface hiding massive suffering and humiliation--of our own people, led by our own government!

All along, the Hong Kong government promised a system of universal suffrage and election of our own chief executive, but it has denied this over and over, despite the demands of hundreds of thousands of citizens.

The students, supported by wide masses of the public, have come out to occupy major parts of Hong Kong, simply to demand that the government keep its word.

But in Hong Kong, as we see now, speaking out against injustice and government betrayal of its promise of democracy can lead you to face pepper spray, water cannons, and batons--from our own police!

It doesn't matter if we are students or doctors or journalists--the police have lost their control and, boosted by the unconditional support of the government, are willing to use maximum force on its own citizens to restore an unjust order.

Just like in Ferguson, we face a police force that has been given the task of basically punishing dissent--while claiming to uphold the law.

This government and police force have rejected genuine dialogue, denied their obligation to heed the voices of citizens, and used weapons, threats and even proxy organizations to harass, stigmatize or silence protesting citizens.

Here, as in Ferguson and New York City, the laws, courts and legislative procedures claim to protect the innocent from abusers. The truth is we know that these institutions have been used to silence, jail and physically crush us, all in the name of the "law."

We know though, that the "law" and justice are not the same thing.

We may not have the same struggles, but we share a common situation of government and police falsely claiming authority over us, and abusing their position of authority and of legitimized use of force to repress our voices and our just demands.

No more injustice! Enough is enough!

Police are not our rulers! No to militarization! No to social exclusion!

Solidarity to Ferguson and to New York City! Black lives matter!

From Hong Kong to Ferguson and New York City, resist state violence!

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DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



[Thanks to David McReynolds for posting.]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

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BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



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