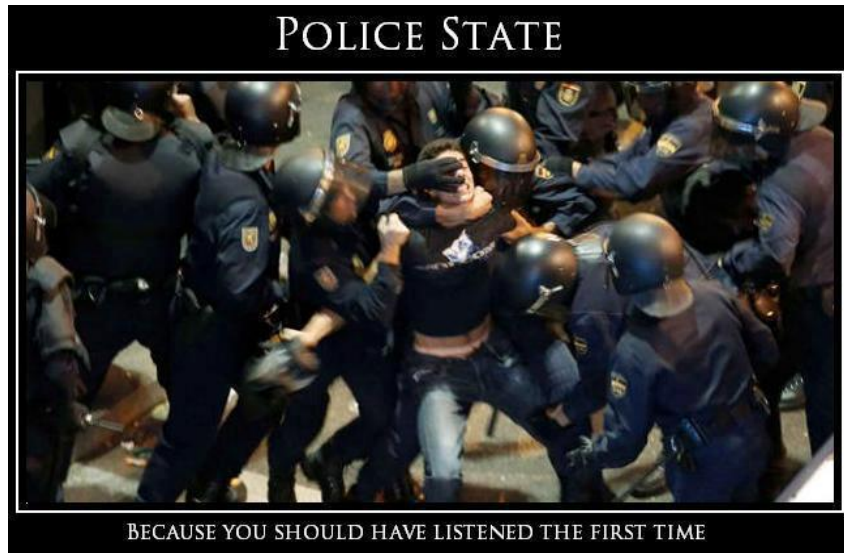
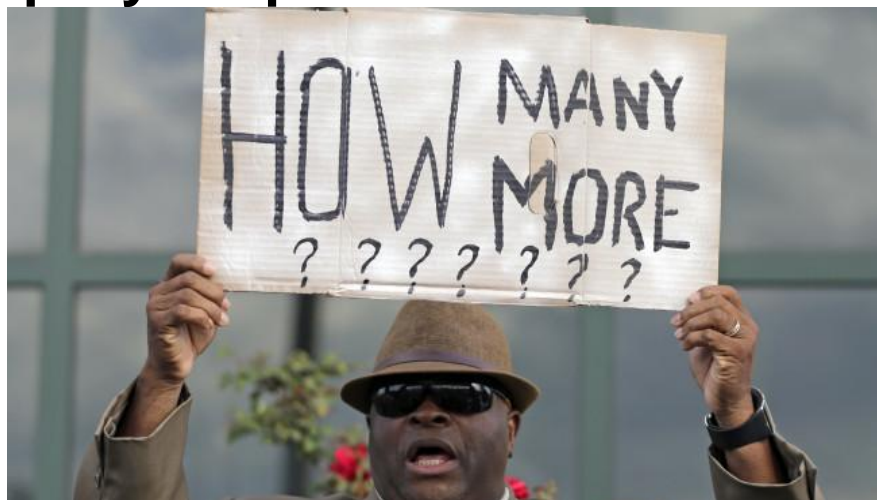


## **Military Resistance 13D9**



## **How To Destroy A Black Life And Not Get Caught: A Step-By-Step Guide For Police Officers**



AP Photo / Chuck Burton

April 9, 2015 by Aurin Squire, Talking Points Memo. Aurin Squire is a freelance journalist who lives in New York City. In addition to being a playwriting fellow at The Juilliard School, he has writing commissions and residencies at the Dramatists Guild of America, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, and National Black Theatre.

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**Michael Thomas Slager did everything by the book.**

**The South Carolina police officer's only mistake was being filmed.**

**But his approach in killing Walter Scott, seeming to plant evidence, and initiating a cover-up was a classic scenario of how cops get away with murder.**

Given what we know about police shootings, it wouldn't surprise me if Slager was coached after he shot and killed Walter Scott. But judging by his dispatch call following the shooting, he was already pretty skilled at using the system to his advantage.

### **Step 1: Play The Victim**

Slager first establishes that he was the one who was threatened. In his dispatch call he said that Scott was reaching for his Taser. But Scott was running away when he was shot.

**In many instances of police murder and abuse, cops scream at the top of their lungs, "Stop reaching for my weapon," whereupon every black person recognizes that the situation is being artificially amped up by the officer.**

In the first moments of Slager's dispatch call, he quickly establishes this by stating that Scott was reaching for his Taser. It was easy for Slager to say. Almost too easy. Throughout the video, Slager methodically went through the motions of someone used to orchestrating pre-meditated acts of violence.

### **Step 2: Create The Monster**

Every "victimized cop" needs a monster.

The next important thing a police office can do is play on the white majority's instinctive fear and belief in the wild, terrifying "other." It doesn't matter if the citizen is in front of his home and reaching for his wallet like Amadou Diallo, holding a sandwich like Vonderrit Myers Jr., bicycling through a parking lot like Jordan Baker, standing on the corner like Eric Garner, sitting in his grandmother's house like Ramarley Graham, or picking up a perfectly legal air rifle from a Walmart shelf like John Crawford III.

**Their deaths are attributed to an almost animalistic ability of black and brown bodies to lunge at fully-armed and weapons-trained law enforcement who are often outfitted with gun, club, pepper spray and Taser.**

**The hundreds of people murdered by cops every year always seem to have this mythical lunging-and-wrestling skill that far exceeds most normal humans.**

These citizens are rarely seen as people with families, dreams and goals.

### **Step 3: Plant The Evidence**

In the video, Slager appears to drop an object—very likely his Taser—by Scott’s lifeless body.

Local NARC and SWAT teams have a notorious reputation of bursting into people’s homes and, when they can’t find what they’re looking for, covering their tracks by planting drugs.

(If you don’t believe me, just google “NARC planting evidence” and a treasure trove of examples will pop up in every region of the country.)

**In some cases, local cops have started up websites to exchange tips and tell stories about how to plant evidence and set up citizen, as in the case of the Palm Beach Sheriff’s Anonymous Message Board, filled with helpful advice on such matters.**

### **Step 4: Handcuff The Body**

Handcuffs make anyone look guilty.

Long after Eric Garner stopped moving, he laid on the sidewalk, shackled.

**The handcuffs also make it possible to explain that the “monster” was still alive despite being electrocuted by Tasers, beaten and/or shot.**

When DWB (driving while black), it’s common for cops to cuff motorists and leave them sitting in a police car or by the side of the road for public display. Often this happens before the cop has even run the motorist’s license. It’s a humiliating and guilt-associative object. In this case, Slager handcuffed Scott’s body, probably lifeless at that point.

### **Step 5: Take Your Time With Medical Help**

You would think that when a violent confrontation results in a death, trained officers would immediately provide medical assistance.

Given that almost all these victims were unarmed and motionless, it would be the humane thing to do.

Yet neither Slager nor the other cop arriving at the scene attempted CPR, and it was several more minutes before medical help arrived.

One of the most extreme examples of this was in the case of NYPD officer Peter Liang murdering Akai Gurley in a housing project staircase, the time delay in calling for an ambulance allows the officer to call his lawyer, consult with the police union, and begin to work on getting his story straight.

## **Step 6: Smear The Dead**

**When questions arise after the latest case of police brutality and/or killing, most law enforcement units are quick to dig into the dead person's background and release any damaging information.**

If the victim is too young—as in the case of 12-year-old Tamir Rice or 7-year-old Ayianna Jones—then they smear the family and parents, implicating their children in the process. In the case of Walter Scott, he has an arrest record.

Even though these arrests are for mostly non-violent crimes, like not keeping up with his child support payments, the paper trail helps justify his death.

Perhaps things will be different this time. Slager was charged with the murder of Walter Scott, which is incredibly rare in America. (Cops are rarely indicted for these incidents, and even fewer are convicted, regardless of videotapes and evidence.) A crowdsourcing campaign for Michael Slager has already been rejected by GoFundMe. But it's not over yet.

**Judging by history, there is a good chance that Slager ends up free.**

**And another campaign on IndieGoGo is going strong.**

**These are the rewards of playing things by the book.**

**MORE:**

# **Hope There Will Be Equally Random Chance Of Justice For Future Victims Of Police Abuse: “Change The Behavior Of Police By Making Them Look Around To See If Anyone Filming Them Before They Move To Lethal Force”**

Apr 8, 2015 The Onion

WASHINGTON—Describing the murder charges brought against a white South Carolina police officer who was filmed shooting an unarmed black man as an encouraging step in the right direction, the American populace reported Wednesday they were hopeful that future victims of police abuse would have an equally random chance of receiving justice.

**“The number of law enforcement officers who have shot unarmed civilians and gone free over the past year has been extremely discouraging, but the fact that this policeman was arrested so swiftly shows that there can be justice for victims so long as a bystander is nearby, has a camera phone on them, captures the whole interaction, and several dozen other circumstances play out in the precise sequence,”** said North Charleston, SC resident Jenine Williams, echoing the sentiments of millions of Americans who told reporters they have faith that, as long as a fair-minded eyewitness happens to be passing by at the exact right time; has the inclination to stop and film; an unobstructed view; enough battery life and memory on their phone; a steady hand; the forethought to start filming an interaction with the police before it escalates into violence; is close enough to get detailed footage, but far enough away to avoid being shot themselves or seen by the officer and potentially having their phone confiscated; and it is daytime, then justice would certainly be served.

“I have a 17-year-old son who I worry about every day when he heads out into our neighborhood.

“But now I can take heart knowing that if, God forbid, he were ever in a situation like this, there would be a tiny fraction of a chance that every single element would fall into place and my family would receive the fair and just legal outcome we deserve.”

The nation added that they were also hopeful the situation would change the behavior of police officers by making them look around to see if anyone was filming them before they moved from excessive to lethal force.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Taliban Announce Spring Offensive:**

**“The Inauguration Of Spring  
Operations Called ‘Azm’ (Resolve)”  
“If The Foreign Occupiers Really Want  
To Relieve Themselves From This  
Nuisance Of Fighting, They Should  
Immediately Withdraw All Their  
Remaining Forces”**



22 April 2015 Statement by the Leading Council of the Islamic Emirate regarding the inauguration of Spring Operations called 'Azm' (Resolve)

In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful.

Allah Almighty says in the Holy Quran:

*39 And fight them until there is no persecution and religion is wholly to Allah. But if they desist, then surely ALLAH is Watchful of what they do.*

O our devout countrymen and Mujahidin! Due to your previous thirteen years of pious Jihad, the crusader invaders led by America were compelled to withdraw a major part of their invading forces from Afghanistan.

Though the occupying forces have announced the termination of their military operations inside Afghanistan but in reality they have preserved the control of our land and air-space under the spiteful 'Bilateral Security Agreement' and similarly, their occupation in political, cultural, educational, propaganda and other spheres has not ceased.

The foreign occupiers are still carrying out drone strikes and night operations against the civilian people and have absolute control over the military and fighting command and control system of the heterogeneous regime under the so called 'Bilateral Security Agreement'.

Since our vigilant people have been expert in detecting the occupation and they can easily discern it in all its visible and invisible forms therefore the foreign occupiers cannot divert the devout Afghan nation from their mission of Jihadi struggle by merely changing their fighting tactics.

If the foreign occupiers really want to relieve themselves from this nuisance of fighting, they should immediately withdraw all their remaining forces and military, intelligence and special operation units from Afghanistan and should abandon both the illegitimate occupation and interference in the affairs of our country.

For the complete liberation of our beloved homeland from the yoke of foreign occupation and for the implementation of Islamic rule throughout the country, the Islamic Emirate is determined to prolong the ongoing Jihad against the foreign invaders as well as their internal stooges.

**For this purpose, the Islamic Emirate is going to launch the spring operations under the inspirational name of 'Azm' (i.e. Resolve, Perseverance or Determination) with the chants of 'Allah-o-Akbar' (Allah is the Greatest) at 5 a.m.**

**on the following Friday, 5th Rajab 1436 A.H (lunar), 4th Taurus 1394 A.H. (solar), 24th April 2015.**

The name 'Azm' and the date 5th Rajab are adopted for good omen as 'Azm' means resolve or determination and those messengers of Allah Almighty who showed perseverance against His enemies have been celebrated as 'Determined Messengers'

*35 Have patience, then, as the Messengers, possessed of high resolve.*

Similarly, Allah Almighty has advised perseverance and trust in Him after consultation regarding virtuous deeds.

*159 And when thou art resolved, then put thy trust in ALLAH. Surely, ALLAH loves those who put their trust in Him.*

Hope that Allah Almighty will bestow our Muslim masses with an even stronger Jihadi 'Azm' and fervor in these operations against the infidels and their debaucheries.

As 5th of Rajab (seventh lunar month of Islamic calendar) has been decided the inaugural date for these operations as this was the date of a historic victory for the early Muslims and an admonitory defeat for the western infidel forces on fifteenth year of Hijra (i.e. migration) in the battle of 'Yarmouk'. We trust in Allah Almighty that these spring operations will be a fatal blow for all western infidel forces who invaded our country.

**The main targets of these operations called 'Azm' which have been planned by the Leadership of the Islamic Emirate and the professional and skilled specialists of our 'Military Commission' will be the foreign occupiers especially their permanent military bases, their intelligence and diplomatic centers, officials of the stooge regime, their military constellations, especially their intelligence, interior ministry and defense ministry officials and other pernicious individuals.**

**As usual, advanced fighting techniques will be exercised in these military operations of 'Azm'. Martyrdom seeking attacks for the devastation of infidels, infiltration attacks among the enemy ranks, attacking the huge and relatively fortified centers of the enemy with heavy and long-range missiles, confrontational attacks against the already demoralized mercenary forces of the enemy and guerrilla attacks in all major cities are among the main tactics of these operations.**

Mujahidin will execute their plans with great care and deliberation in all parts of the country during these spring operations called 'Azm' in which top priority will be given to safeguarding and protecting the lives and properties of the civilian people.

**And those Mujahidin who are negligent and careless in preserving the lives and properties of the civilian people and their operations result in the civilian losses or casualties, will be panelized according to Jihadi and Sharia rules and regulations.**

**Similarly, consistent with its policies, the Islamic Emirate has never and will never target religious and other educational institutions like mosques, madrassas, schools, universities, health centers like clinics and hospitals, public buildings and other projects of public welfare.**

The Islamic Emirate reverently anticipates from the whole Muslim nation to even more inclusively support Mujahidin for the success of these virtuous operations as they have done in the past.

Similarly they are advised to remain at a considerable distance from the military constellations and centers so that they are not hurt while operations are executed. The Islamic Emirate is quite considerate in resolving your issues in the light of Islamic Sharia system and in the prevailing circumstances, if some welfare organizations or individuals want to help the masses, we will support their activities according to our procedures in the light of Islamic rules and regulations.

**Similarly, we once again call upon all the military and civilian officials and workers of the stooge regime to depart the invaders for fulfilling their Islamic and Afghani obligation and to unite with their own Muslim people.**

**Mujahidin are ready as ever to provide secure and peaceful living conditions for all the officials and individuals who quit the enemy ranks.**

In the end, we want to remind our courageous Mujahidin that Jihad is a type of worship and the purity of intention plays a crucial role in it. Instead of status, fame, boon or any other mean worldly benefits, the objective of your Jihad should be wholly and solely the elevation of the Word of Allah.

Religious obligations, the training rules and regulations of Jihad and its procedures should be strictly observed. You should obey your elders and leaders. You should deal with and respect your masses just like a part of your own body. Live like brothers among yourselves. Do not be deceived by the enemy propaganda. Remain steadfast and consistent in adversities. Only trust in Allah and rely upon people's support as the Holy Quran says:

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**





**“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

**“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

**“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”**

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**“We have it in our power to begin the world over again.” -- Thomas Paine**

## **Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War**



Photograph by Mike Hastie: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Washington, D.C. 1986

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: April 23, 2015  
Subject: Full Disclosure letter for Memorial Day

## **Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War**

**When I face the Wall alone in the dead of the night,  
I bear witness out loud that the entire Vietnam War  
was one of the greatest lies in American history.  
I hear 58,000 citizens come alive with profound approval.  
As an infant child reaches out to touch its mother's breast,  
I just want to touch the names on the Wall.  
For a chosen few the Wall will become flesh.**

**Mike Hastie  
Army Medic Vietnam  
Memorial Day 2015**

**Photograph by Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
Washington, D.C. 1986**

**If the thing they were fighting for was important enough  
to die for then it was also important enough for them to  
be thinking about it in the last minutes of their lives. That  
stood to reason. Life is awfully important so if you've given  
it away you'd ought to think with all your mind in the last  
moments of your life about the thing you traded if for. So,  
did all those kids die thinking of democracy and freedom  
and liberty and honor and the safety of the home and the  
stars and stripes forever? You're goddamn right they didn't.**

**Dalton Trumbo  
Johnny Got His Gun  
World War I  
One of the greatest  
anti-war novels ever  
written.**

**[Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam  
1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at:  
[hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T]**

**One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head.  
The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a  
so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen  
of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004**

# The Silent Wars

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: Military Resistance  
Subject: The Silent Wars  
Date: Apr 19, 2010

By Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry,  
Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

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## The Silent Wars

What are they fighting for  
Land and it's riches  
what kind of riches  
Oil Minerals Natural Gas  
What else are they fighting for  
Positioning in the world  
So that's why the wars are  
on the other side of earth Yes  
Looks like a big country  
picking on a smaller one again  
You mean like Vietnam Yes  
a long time ago  
Their people just listen  
but all they hear is silence  
Yes they have their own problems  
many live hand to mouth  
they are in a rich depression  
Many go to work while  
others sit at home eating food stamps  
Their government keeps  
them poor so they will just  
think of their own problems  
and keep disconnected  
to the silent wars beyond  
Some have lost their houses  
the rich banks took them away  
Why does their rich government  
keep them alive  
while so many are broken  
It's some sort of distraction  
just their own silent wars  
the wars on TV mean nothing  
to them

Many have died  
they die in their streets  
they die in their cars  
in the rich man's prisons  
men surrounded by walls  
so their screaming can't be heard  
silence is torture  
silence is death

written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance Apr 19, 2010

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## **“What Are The Real Motivations For The Obama Administration’s Sanctions On Venezuela?”**

**“The Drastic Drop In The Price Of  
Basic Commodities, Especially  
Oil, “Has Created A New Opening  
For U.S. Imperialism To Attempt  
To Re-Establish Its Position In The  
Region”**

**“Obama’s Executive Order  
Represents A Part Of The Strategy”  
“The Alternative To A Return To The U.S.  
Neoliberal Order For Venezuela Won’t  
Come Through State-Led Development  
In Alliance With Chinese Capitalism”**

April 9, 2015 by Eva María and Wael Elasady, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

On March 9, Barack Obama signed an executive order declaring Venezuela to be an "extraordinary threat" to the national security of the U.S., and his administration placed sanctions on seven government officials.

The idea that Venezuela, a victim of multiple U.S.-backed coup attempts over the past 15 years, is any threat to the world's largest economic and military power quickly came under ridicule in Venezuela and around Latin America and the world.

Just as absurd is the Obama administration's claims that the sanctions are a response to concerns about human rights abuses and attacks on democracy by the government of President Nicolás Maduro. As many writers pointed out, the allegations reek of hypocrisy.

The U.S. is guilty of many attempts to destabilize democratically elected governments in Latin America. It maintains alliances with states across the world that are human rights abusers, and they get aid and weapons, instead of sanctions.

And this is not to mention the U.S.'s own dismal human rights record, from the torture that takes place at Guantánamo Bay, to the exposure of a "black" site in Chicago where police keep suspects in a legal limbo while they are held and interrogated.

### **What are the real motivations for the Obama administration's sanctions on Venezuela?**

There have been two explanations put forward by left-wing commentators.

One is that the sanctions and U.S. saber rattling are simply more of the same--what some have called a "continuous coup," in which the U.S. is involved in continuing attempts to destabilize and undermine the Bolivarian government in Venezuela. The other explanation is that these sanctions are, in fact, "irrational" actions, resulting from internal political rivalries and special interests--which undermine U.S. foreign policy aims by weakening the Venezuelan opposition and further isolating the U.S. in Latin America.

What both of these explanations fail to take into account, however, are the effects of the slowdown in the global economy and the drastic drop in the price of basic commodities, especially oil, which has weakened many of the left-leaning governments elected over the previous decade across Latin America.

This has created a new opening for U.S. imperialism to attempt to re-establish its position in the region--and Obama's executive order represents a part of the strategy. Anti-imperialists must be prepared to challenge this and any other attempts at U.S. intervention in Venezuela.

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Under the late President Hugo Chávez, who died in 2013, Venezuela became the leading force of what was called the "Pink Tide"--a wave of left-leaning governments, including Evo Morales in Bolivia, Rafael Correa in Ecuador and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in Brazil. These governments came to power and challenged, to varying degrees, the neoliberal policies that have been so pernicious to the region.

**The overall improvement in the lives of the working class and the poor in Venezuela and the rest of the region was made possible by social programs enacted by these governments and funded by a commodity boom that began in 2003.**

**This boom was driven by high demand from emerging markets like India and China, as the price of primary commodities such as copper, soy, iron ore and, most importantly, oil reached new highs.**

**The Pink Tide governments, including Chávez's Venezuela, were able to avoid any head-on challenge to capitalist social relations.**

They were able to fund social programs that kept them popular and in power, without having an outright confrontation with their national bourgeoisie--and in some cases, like Brazil and Bolivia, incorporating sections of the local capitalist class into the ruling parties.

This has all been possible because of a decade of high economic growth on the basis of the commodities boom.

That period is over.

Now the question is: With growth stalled, what will these governments do? Will they move to the left to continue and deepen their project, even if this means a more fundamental challenge to the free market system?

Or will they accommodate and move right, becoming the governments that carry out hated policies that impoverish the working class and poor.

In places like Brazil, the latter seems to already be the case, with the traditional right benefiting by capitalizing on social frustrations and mobilizing in the streets under the slogan of fighting corruption in the government.

In Venezuela, Maduro and the PSUV leadership are trying to escape the trap of the rentier oil state by relying on Chinese investment in manufacturing and infrastructure. If the downturn in oil prices weakened Russia, Iran and Venezuela, it has been a boon to China, which is believed to be saving \$600 million a day from cheaper oil imports, according to a Wall Street Journal report.

China is using some of this money to increase its economic activity in Latin America. In early January, China and the 33 member states of CELAC signed a five-year agreement that pledged investment of \$250 billion in the region over the next decade, including a focus on infrastructure like transport, railways, ports and roads, technology projects, and research and development.

**In Venezuela, the government has announced that it will move forward with what it calls Special Economic Zones (SEZ)--with Chinese capital making up the majority of the investment.**

As Lucas Koerner reported for [VenezuelaAnalysis.com](http://VenezuelaAnalysis.com):

“So far, 47 firms have committed to setting up operations in the SEZ, and a further 100 have requested more information regarding potential projects. Chinese firms constitute the bulk of the foreign partners, with \$2 billion in contracts already designated to manufacturing and construction project.”

**Neither these projects nor Chinese investment will move Venezuela any closer to socialism or challenge capitalism.**

**The opposite is the case, as Koerner explains:**

“The SEZ draw their inspiration from the Chinese model of "market socialism" imposed by Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s, which sought to promote state-regulated capitalist development in specific areas of the country.

“The resulting Special Economic Zones, which now include major cities the size of Shanghai, have been widely praised as the foundation of the Chinese "economic miracle" of the previous decades.

“However, some have criticized the logic of SEZs, saying the lax investor-friendly regulations facilitate the trampling of labor and environmental rights.”

The concerns of these critics are well founded. China is one of the world's two biggest capitalist powers.

It invests in countries around the world for the same reason the U.S. does--not out of any commitment to socialism or workers' solidarity, but for profit and capital accumulation.

**The alternative to a return to the U.S. neoliberal order for Venezuela and the rest of Latin America won't come through state-led development in alliance with Chinese capital--nor through accommodation with sections of national and regional capital.**

Rather, the key element will be the response of the working class and poor in Venezuela and elsewhere, and their level of mobilization.

This can shape the emergence of a bigger revolutionary left current, which can help lead a definitive break with capitalism and push for the fulfillment of the hopes and aspirations of the millions in the region--on display during their years of resistance to neoliberalism, whether in the favelas, barrios, workplaces or countryside across Latin America.

**Military Resistance In PDF Format?**

**If you prefer PDF to Word format, email:**

**[contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org)**

## ANNIVERSARIES

### ***April 24, 1917:*** ***Anniversary Of A Noble Cause:*** **The Irish Take Arms To Fight A Foreign Imperial Occupation**



The Easter Uprising began when between 1,000 and 1,500 members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood attempted to seize Dublin and issued the declaration of Irish independence from Britain.

Carl Bunin Peace History April 23-29

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By Constantine Fitzgibbon, Users.bigpond.net [Excerpt]

On Easter Monday, April 24, 1916, a force of Irishmen under arms estimated at between 1,000 and 1,500 men and women attempted to seize Dublin, with the ultimate intention of destroying British rule in Ireland and creating an entirely independent Irish Republic to include all 32 counties of Leinster, Munster, Ulster and Connaught.

Their leaders, Patrick Pearse, James Connolly and the others, knew that their chances of success were so slight as to be almost non-existent.



Yet they fought, and died.

Why?

The circumstances that led to the Irish rebellion of 1916 are of an intense complexity, historical, social, political and, perhaps above all, psychological. The Irish writer, Sean O'Faolain, has written of his country: "Most of our physical embodiments of the past are ruins, as most of our songs are songs of lament and defiance.

**"The Easter Rising was a complete failure, which left large parts of Dublin in ruins; yet without it Ireland might never have been free of English rule.**

**"The leaders, alive, had very few supporters even among the Irish patriots; dead, they became and have remained their country's heroes.**

**It was a great historical paradox, and one that to this day the British have perhaps never understood.**

**Had they understood it, it is conceivable that the British might still have an empire, since the overthrow of British rule in Ireland marked the beginning of the overthrow of British imperial might in Asia, in Africa, and elsewhere**

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**"We Declare The Right Of The People  
Of Ireland To The Ownership Of  
Ireland"**

**"The Long Usurpation Of That Right  
By A Foreign People And  
Government Has Not Extinguished  
The Right"**

[Stephen-stratford.co.uk]

***[Text Of The Declaration Made After The Occupation Of Dublin's General Post Office During The 1916 Easter Uprising]***

POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC

TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

## IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN:

In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

**We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible.**

**The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people.**

**In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the last three hundred years they have asserted it to arms.**

**Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.**

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and all of its parts, cherishing all of the children of the nation equally and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God.

Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, in humanity, or rapine.

**In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.**

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government.

Thomas J. Clarke, Sean Mac Diarmada, Thomas MacDonagh, P. H. Pearse, Eamonn Ceannt, James Connolly, Joseph Plunkett

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**“If These Men Must Die, Would It Not Be Better To Die In Their Own Country Fighting For Freedom For Their Class, And For The Abolition Of War, Than To Go Forth To Strange Countries And Die Slaughtering And Slaughtered By Their Brothers That Tyrants And Profiteers Might Live?”**

By Ted Grant, Unknown source, April 1966; <http://www.marxists.org/> [Excerpts]

On 17th April 1916 the Irish Citizen Army, together with the Irish Volunteers, rose up in arms against the might of the British Empire to strike a blow for Irish freedom and for the setting up of an Irish Republic. Their blow for freedom was to reverberate round the world, and preceded the first Russian Revolution by almost a year.

The background to the rebellion was the centuries of national oppression suffered by the Irish people in the interests of British landlordism and capitalism. In this they had the support of the Irish landlords and capitalists, of the Catholic hierarchy, who were linked by ties of interest to the Imperialists, and joined with them in fear of the Irish workers and peasants.

It is impossible to understand the Easter Rising without understanding the ideas of its leader, James Connolly, who considered himself a Marxist and based himself on the ideas of Internationalism and the class struggle. Like MacLean in Britain, Lenin and Trotsky, Liebknecht and Luxemburg and other Internationalists, Connolly regarded with horror the betrayal by the leaders of the Labour movement in all countries in supporting the Imperialist War.

**Dealing with the betrayal of the Second International, Connolly declared in his paper *The Workers Republic*: “If these men must die, would it not be better to die in their own country fighting for freedom for their class, and for the abolition of war, than to go forth to strange countries and die slaughtering and slaughtered by their brothers that tyrants and profiteers might live?”**

Protesting against the support by the British TUC of the war, Connolly wrote: “Time was when the unanimous voice of that Congress declared that the working class had no enemy except the capitalist class – that of its own country at the head of the list!”

Connolly stood for national freedom as a step towards the Irish Socialist Republic. But while the Stalinists and reformists today – 50 years after 1916 still mumble in politically incoherent terms about the need for the “national revolution against imperialism”, Connolly was particularly clear about the class question that was at the basis of the Irish question.

Without being in direct contact with Lenin and Trotsky he had a similar position. “The cause of Labour is the cause of Ireland, and the cause of Ireland is the cause of Labour”, he wrote. “They cannot be dissevered. Ireland seeks freedom. Labour seeks that an Ireland free should be the sole mistress of her own destiny, supreme owner of all material things within and upon her soil”.

Connolly had no illusions in the capitalists of any country, least of all Ireland.

**On International capitalism he wrote: “If, then, we see a small section of the possessing class prepared to launch into war, to shed oceans of blood and spend millions of treasure, in order to maintain intact a small portion of their privileges, how can we expect the entire propertied class to abstain from using the same weapons, and to submit peacefully when called upon to yield up forever all their privileges?”**

And on the Irish capitalists, “Therefore the stronger I am in my affection for national tradition, literature, language, and sympathies, the more firmly rooted I am in my opposition to that capitalist class which in its soulless lust for power and gold would bray the nations as in a mortar”.

**And again, “We are out for Ireland for the Irish. But who are the Irish? Not the rack-renting, slum-owning landlord; not the sweating, profit grinding capitalist; not the sleek and oily lawyer; not the prostitute pressmen – the hired liars of the enemy.**

**“Not these are the Irish upon whom the future depends. Not these, but the Irish working class, the only secure foundation upon which a free nation can be reared.”**

Writing on the need for an Irish insurrection to expel British imperialism he wrote in relation to the World War: “Starting thus, Ireland may yet set the torch to a European conflagration that will not burn out until the last throne and the last capitalist bond and debenture will be shrivelled on the funeral pyre of the last War lord.”

As an answer to the demand for conscription which had been imposed in Britain and which was supported by the Irish capitalists for Ireland too, where the employers were exerting pressure to force Irish workers to volunteer, Connolly wrote: "We want and must have economic conscription in Ireland for Ireland.

Not the conscription of men by hunger to compel them to fight for the power that denies them the right to govern their own country, but the conscription by an Irish nation of all the resources of the nation – its land, its railways, its canals, its workshops, its docks, its mines, its mountains, its rivers and streams, its factories and machinery, its horses, its cattle, and its men and women, all co-operating together under one common direction that gather under one common direction that Ireland may live and bear upon her fruitful bosom the greatest number of the freest people she has ever known."

He looked at the employers who were opposing conscription too from a critical class point of view: "if here and there we find an occasional employer who fought us in 1913 (the Great Dublin lock-out in which the employers tried to break union organisation, but were defeated in this object by the solidarity of the Irish workers and their British comrades too) agreeing with our national policy in 1915 it is not because he has become converted, or is ashamed of the unjust use of his powers, but simply that he does not see in economic conscription the profit he fancied he saw in denying to his followers the right to organise in their own way in 1913."

**Answering objections to the firm working class point of view which he expounded he declared: "Do we find fault with the employer for following his own interests? We do not. But neither are we under any illusion as to his motives. In the same manner we take our stand with our own class, nakedly upon our class interests, but believing that these interests are the highest interests of the race."**

It is in this light that the uprising of 1916 must be viewed.

As a consequence of the struggles of the past Connolly who was the General Secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union had organised the Citizens Army for the purpose of defence against capitalist and police attack and for preparing for struggle against British imperialism.

The Citizens Army was almost purely working class in composition: dockers, transport workers, building workers, printers and other sections of the Dublin workers being its rank and file. It was with this force and in alliance with the more middle class Irish volunteers that Connolly prepared for the uprising.

**He had no illusions about its immediate success. According to William O'Brien, on the day of the insurrection Connolly said to him: "We are going out to be slaughtered."**

**He said "Is there no chance of success?" and Connolly replied "None whatsoever."**

**Connolly understood that the tradition and the example created would be immortal and would lay the basis for future freedom and a future Irish Socialist Republic. In that lay his greatness.**

What a difference from the craven traitors of the German Socialist and Communist and Trade Union leaders who despite having three million armed workers supporting them, and with the sympathy and support of the overwhelming majority of the German working class (ready to fight and die, capitulated to Hitler without firing a shot.

**The British occupying troops suppressed the insurrection and then savagely executed its leaders, including the leader of the insurrection James Connolly, who was already badly wounded.**

**Connolly was murdered, but in the last analysis, British imperialism really suffered defeat.**

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## **April 24, 1971: Magnificent Anniversary**



Peace History April 23-29

500,000 demonstrated against the Vietnam War in Washington, D.C. It was the largest-ever demonstration opposing U.S. war in Southeast Asia. 150,000 marched at a simultaneous rally in San Francisco.

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## ***April 25, 1974: Portugal: Most Honorable Anniversary***

# Soldiers Rise Up To Overthrow A Dictator



Socialist Worker.co.uk

Carl Bunin Peace History April 23-29

A peaceful uprising by army and civilians, known as the carnation revolution (Revolução dos Cravos), ended 48 years of fascism in Portugal.

The regime killed four before giving into the popular resistance.

25 April 2004 By Manny Thain, Socialist World.net [Excerpts]

**It started at 12.25 am on Thursday 25 April 1974 when the rebel song, Grandola Vila Morena, played on the radio.**

**By early evening the end of dictatorship was announced.**

**The Movimento das Forças Armadas (MFA), radical mid-ranking officers, had executed the plan devised by Captain Otelo de Carvalho. Troops secured Lisbon and the second city, Porto. Key installations were taken, ministers arrested.**

**THE news of the regime's downfall spread like wildfire.**

**People flooded the streets.**

**MFA vehicles were mobbed by adoring crowds.**

**Thousands of school students marched, shouting “Down with fascism”.**

**Red carnations, the symbol of the revolution, blossomed in rifle barrels and festooned the streets in this festival of freedom.**

The ex-dictator, Marcello Caetano, cowered in National Guard barracks.

He was the successor to the fascist regime consolidated in the early 1930s by António Salazar. Paramilitary groups terrorised left-wing and industrial militants. Independent trade unions and the right to strike were illegal.

The secret police had a massive network of agents and informers.

Torture was systemic.

But it was the armed African liberation struggles - especially Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique - begun in the early 1960s, which drove the final nails into the coffin of the fascist regime.

**Many mid-ranked officers had been influenced by the Marxism they read in counter-insurgency training.**

Radicalisation continued in Africa with the brutal repression meted out to the people fighting for their freedom. A policy of fast-tracking new officers fuelled the anger.

The MFA set up a ‘junta of national salvation’ to rule until a provisional government was formed. Elections were promised within a year. It announced freedom of association and expression, and an amnesty for political prisoners.

Having suffered at the hands of bosses and landowners linked to the regime, workers drove them out of the factories and off the land. The editor of the daily, *Diário de Notícias*, was forced out on 7 June after print workers seized the presses, publishing a front-page article exposing his fascist connections.

Homeless people occupied empty properties. Shipyard and underground workers went on strike for a 50% pay rise. Car workers won a 40-hour week. Bakery and textile workers struck. Train and tram conductors refused to collect fares.

General António de Spínola was made acting president. The son of a friend of Salazar, Spínola had impeccable fascist credentials. He had, however, called for the easing of direct colonial rule, which gave him a certain amount of support.

Spínola made one more pathetic bid for power, on 11 March 1975.

**But the paratroopers he mobilised mutinied.**

The fact that six members of the Espírito Santo banking family were implicated in the coup fiasco fuelled further outrage.

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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# **Chinese Increasingly Attack Local Court Officials: Judicial Personnel Are Fleeing Their Jobs; “Frustration At Corrupt Or Politicized Rulings May Erupt In Violence” “Social Conflict Is Running High, And It’s Often Expressed In Courts”**

April 22, 2015 By Didi Kirsten Tatlow, New York Times

Eager to get a ruling in a long-running case where she was the plaintiff, the lawyer Cui Hui jammed her foot against a security door in a courthouse near Beijing to stop it from closing and Judge Lai Xiulin from escaping.

There are many such doors in Chinese courtrooms, often toward the rear, and often of solid steel.

They offer a safe zone for judicial personnel in a system that even the government says is beset with error, and where frustration at corrupt or politicized rulings may erupt in violence.

To get rid of Ms. Cui, Judge Lai hit her and pushed her to the ground, said her fellow lawyer Liang Xiaojun, relaying an account by Ms. Cui.

Another judge, Yang Yu, ordered the court police to join in the beating, leaving her badly bruised, Mr. Liang said, citing Ms. Cui. Photographs said to be of Ms. Cui circulated online showing damage to her eyes and a bruised face and limbs.

Outraged, scores of lawyers signed a statement protesting the April 2 incident at the Tongzhou District People's Court, and last week the Beijing authorities said they would investigate.

Court officials reached by telephone declined to comment. A faxed request for information went unanswered.

**In China's justice system, the security door has become a symbol of the antagonism between the people and the law.**

"In Cui Hui's case, the judge used the security door to protect himself from a lawyer. Often it's to protect the judge from plaintiffs or defendants," Mr. Liang said in an interview in his office in west Beijing.

In a similar case this week, unidentified people in the central city of Hengyang beat several lawyers as they tried to cross a security barrier into a courthouse to pursue allegations of torture in police custody.

Again, lawyers signed a petition protesting the assault.

"Security doors are very common in courts here. Judges don't feel safe," nor are they respected, Mr. Liang said. "Social conflict is running high, and it's often expressed in courts. Any judge who makes an unpopular decision is believed to be corrupt. And litigants can be very unreasonable. They don't understand the law and may react violently."

So tricky has exercising the law become that judicial personnel are fleeing their jobs. The result is a shortage of qualified judges, according to Chinese news reports.

"Judge Shortage, Court Panic" was the title of an article in Southern Weekly. Another, by Xinhua, the state news agency, detailed judges' three main complaints: low salaries, lack of respect and a sense of physical security.

The airing of the problem comes as officials try to "rule the country in accordance with the law," a policy announced last year.

As citizens increasingly turn to the law to resolve disputes, the government is trying to stop judges from quitting, including mandating five- or 10-year terms of service and allocating just two 15-day periods a year during which judges may resign.

In March, Mu Ping, president of the Beijing Higher People's Court, was quoted by Xinhua as saying that in the last five years "more than 500 people have left the courts."

"Beijing's 'judge wastage' is a serious phenomenon," Mr. Mu said. It was especially apparent at the lower-level courts: "Things are down to the bone, and the speed of departures is increasing," Mr. Mu added.

Last year, during a lunch break in a murder trial in Sichuan Province, judicial personnel and security employees gathered behind a gray steel door at the back of a courthouse. The judge was not present, perhaps because a foreign reporter was there.

"Up a short flight of stairs to a large room, behind a steel door," my notes read. "For your safety," said a court official, ushering me in.

The family of the dead man, Tan Yong, whose widow, Li Yan, was being retried that day for his murder, "won't get in here," the official said.

He was wrong. A sister of the man sneaked past guards and entered the room through a back garden, shouting threats of revenge against those present if her brother's killer was not put to death. She was bundled out by security officials.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **The Siege: Cultural Resistance In Palestine; "The Play Gives Some Insight Into What It Was Like To Be Trapped Inside The Church"**

# “The Smell Of Decaying Dead Bodies In The Building, Shot By Israeli Snipers”



Poster for the play – The Freedom Theatre

20th April 2015 by Frida and Jenny, International Solidarity Movement

Jenin, Occupied Palestine

The room was overflowing with people who had come to witness the opening of the play *The Siege*. Pushing our way through the throng we managed to find some seats, squashed in the middle of a diverse and lively audience.

We were sitting in the Freedom Theatre, a Palestinian community-based theatre and cultural centre located in Jenin Refugee Camp in the northern part of the West Bank. Started in 2006, the theatre’s aim is to generate cultural resistance through the field of popular culture and art as a catalyst for social change in the occupied Palestinian territories.

So, after two months of rehearsals, they were finally ready to show us their eagerly anticipated new play.

The day started off with a theatrical memorial for Juliano Mer-Khamis, one of the founders of the Theatre School who was shot and killed in 2011 by a masked gunman.

We then watched Journey of a Freedom Fighter; a documentary that recounts the story of Rabea Turkman, a talented student of the theatre who turned from armed resistance to cultural resistance.

He was subsequently shot by the Israeli army and died a few years later as a result of his injuries.



Scene from the play – photo by ISM

Inspired by the true story of a group of freedom fighters, now exiled across Europe and Gaza, The Siege tells of a moment in history that took place during the height of the second intifada in 2002.

The Israeli army had surrounded Bethlehem from the air and on land with snipers, helicopters and tanks, blocking all individuals and goods from coming in or out. For 39 days, people were living under curfew and on rations, with their supply of water cut and little access to electricity.

Along with hundreds of other Palestinians, monks, nuns and ten activists from the International Solidarity Movement, these five freedom fighters took refuge in the Church of the Nativity, one of the holiest sites in the world.

**The play gives some insight into what it was like to be trapped inside the church, surviving on so little, with the smell of decaying dead bodies in the building, shot by Israeli snipers.**

It brings out the hard choice they were faced with between surrendering or resisting until the end. However, no matter what they chose, they were given no other option than to

leave behind their family and homeland for ever, as all the freedom fighters – in reality 39 – were deported and have not been able to come back since.

The play exceeded all expectations! Everyone seemed amazed by what they had just witnessed.

We talked with Osama, a student and a friend from the Freedom Theatre School who was brought up in Al Azzeh refugee camp, in Bethlehem. His words were lost in the power of his emotion. “I would have loved to play in that show!”, he finally managed to share.

Only 12 at the time when the tanks entered his city, the show related so much to his childhood and brought back many memories of that time in his life. He recounts how the loud bang, heard at the start of the play, was a reenactment of the shot that had pierced the city’s water tank. This sound is still strongly engrained in his mind as it was the start of the long and difficult days that the inhabitants were about to face.

“We are under occupation, but we are not weak. We stand up with what we can, be it our bodies, our voices or our guns!” – Osama believes in armed resistance as one of many ways to fight the occupation.

And as an actor, it is important for him to represent these resisters in “another way, a good way. We die because we want to live!”

Alaa Shehada, the assistant director of the play, explained a bit about the making of The Siege.

During their research period, they had gone over to Europe and interviewed 13 refugees in order to hear their stories first hand. They even managed to get an interview with one of the 26 refugees in Gaza. He explained how this story is not just about what happened during 2002, but is a microcosm of the whole Palestinian struggle.

It reveals the continuous Israeli propaganda that has been going on since 1948, representing the Palestinians as terrorists through false accusations.

**In this particular situation, the Israeli army blamed the fighters for having attacked the church and holding the monks inside it. This has later been proven to be a lie. The truth being that the monks had allowed the fighters in and they were working together during the whole time of the siege.**

Ultimately, during the 67 years of Israeli occupation, even with the whole world watching, there has been no justice for the Palestinian people. 50% of Palestinians are refugees from their own country and still have not been given the right to return.

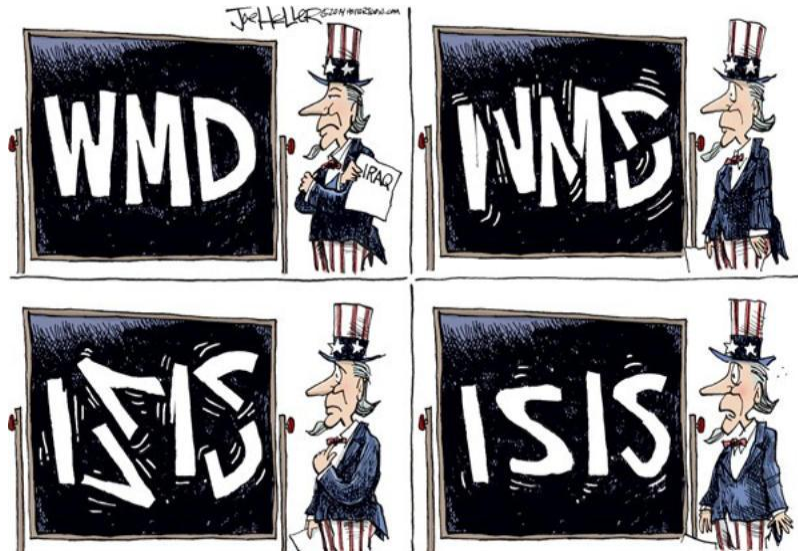
**To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:**

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

**The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”**



# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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