

Military Resistance 1318



MILITARY NEWS

**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THEM HOME:
ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



The remains of Staff Sgt. Forrest B. Sibley on Hurlburt Field. Two Special Tactics Airmen, who had recently deployed to Afghanistan were shot at a vehicle checkpoint at Camp Antonik, Afghanistan on Aug. 26, and died of wounds sustained in the attack. (Photo: Special to the News Journal)

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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Ecuador’s Pro-Capitalist Regime Takes Off The

**Populist Mask:
“Activism Has Become
Sedition, And Left-Wing Dissent
Betrayal Of The Country”
“The People In The Streets
Demand An End To The Ongoing
Criminalization Of Social Protest”
“The Demonstrators Are Defending
Workers' Rights To Organize And
Strike, Elemental Freedoms Limited
In The Labor Code Introduced In April
This Year”
“They Are Outraged By A New Agrarian
Reform Initiative That Will Displace
Peasants And Advance The Interests Of
Agribusiness”**

September 17, 2015 by Jeffery R. Webber, Jacobin [Excerpts]

On August 13, an indigenous march and people's strike converged on the Andean city of Quito, Ecuador's political center.

The march was coordinated principally by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE), and began on August 2 in Zamora Chinchipe, passing through Loja, Azuay, Cañar, Chimborazo, Tungurahua, Cotopaxi and Salcedo, before arriving in the capital.

Demands emanating from the different sectors of urban and rural groups supporting the initiative were diverse, and sometimes contradictory.

But Alberto Acosta, at least, sees a certain clarity in the tangle of ideas and demands.

Acosta was the presidential candidate for the Plurinational Unity of Lefts in the 2013 general elections. An economist by profession, he was the minister of mines and energy and president of the Constituent Assembly in the opening years of the Correa government. After the assembly ended, he and Correa parted ways, but Acosta remains an important shaper of opinion in the country. In the lead-up to August 13, he maintained that, contrary to popular assessments, there was a discernible political core to the protesters' demands.

According to Acosta, the people in the streets are opposed to any constitutional changes that will allow indefinite re-election of the president and demand an end to the ongoing criminalization of social protest.

They are outraged by a new agrarian reform initiative that will displace peasants and advance the interests of agribusiness, and they are lined up against the expansion of mega-mines and their nightmarish socio-ecological implications.

The demonstrators are defending workers' rights to organize and strike, elemental freedoms limited in the Labor Code introduced in April this year.

They are aligned against oil exploitation in Yasuní, one of the most bio-diverse areas in the world and a zone that Correa promised to protect and then abandoned.

Finally, the popular organizations are opposed to the neoliberal free trade agreement Ecuador signed with the European Union that erodes the country's sovereignty.

These overlapping concerns, according to Acosta, overshadow other divisions on the left.

Despite this shared mission, walking through the different sections of the August 13 march, it was difficult to miss the contest for hegemony unfolding within the opposition.

Left-wing unions called for dignified wages and the right to strike, while socialist feminists chanted slogans against Correa's Opus Dei-inflected "family plan" and anti-capitalist environmental groups marched against extractivism--particularly the expansion of the mining, oil, and agro-industrial frontiers.

Alongside these groups were social-democratic and revolutionary socialist and anarchist collectives, some with significant strength and long organizational histories, others little more than affinity groups.

These eclectic expressions of a left--broadly conceived--dominated the streets in numbers and political sophistication, but they have yet to cohere into a unified left bloc, independent of Correa.

CONAIE issued a public manifesto after a three-day conference in February, outlining demands that are clearly distinguishable from the politics of the right--

contrary to the suggestions of state officials--and reiterate longstanding aims of the indigenous movement.

It's patently clear that Correa's Manichean worldview, in which the population is with the government or with the right, obscures more than it reveals.

Still, the social bases, potential or realized, of the myriad faces of the right-wing opposition--Guillermo Lasso, the largest shareholder in the Bank of Guayaquil and 2013 presidential candidate for the right; Jaime Nebot, the conservative mayor of Guayaquil; and Mauricio Rodas, the mayor of Quito--were also visible in the avenues and byways of Quito.

This politics found material expression in middle-class banners defending families and freedom, and audible resonance in the chanted echoes of "Down with the dictator!" President Correa points to the large demonstrations of last June against taxes on inheritance and capital gains as evidence that this right is a real and imminent threat to stability.

The immediate battle lines of the demonstration--on the left and right alike--were delineated by the various participants' desires to demonstrate social power in the extra-parliamentary domain, but anxious anticipation of the 2017 general elections weighed on every element of the day's events. No one knows if Correa will amend the constitution and run a third time as the candidate for PAIS Alliance (AP), the party in power since 2007, and under Correa's leadership since its inception.

During the commodities boom, life for Ecuador's poor improved. According to official figures--which use \$2.63 per day as the baseline--poverty in Ecuador declined from 37.6 percent in 2006 to 22.5 percent in 2014, while inequality income (measured by the Gini index) also improved.

In that economic context, Correa could maintain his popularity through a fluctuating amalgam of co-optive measures and targeted retaliation vis-à-vis the principal social movements, especially the indigenous movement, which is fighting a two-pronged battle centered on socio-ecological conflicts around mining and the integrity of indigenous territories.

“Activism Has Become Sedition, And Left-Wing Dissent Betrayal Of The Country”

Under charges of "terrorism and sabotage," several nonviolent indigenous leaders have been jailed and are serving punitive sentences for activities like blocking roads or preventing mining companies from gaining access to their (ever-expanding) concessions throughout the country.



A terrorist? Woman at the indigenous march and People's Strike in Quito, Ecuador earlier this month. Amazon Watch

But recently, amid an extended rut in oil prices and looming austerity measures, the Correa administration has suffered significant declines in popularity. According to the indispensable conjunctural reports regularly published by sociologist Pablo Ospina Peralta, polling data show the president has lost between 10 and 20 points in popularity over the last few months.

In the face of growing discontent, the Correa administration has responded defensively by framing the demonstrations as either intentionally, or naively, playing into the hands of the domestic right and imperialism, reinforcing the destabilization of the country, and laying the groundwork for the right to enact a golpe blando, or soft coup.

One AP congressperson, María Augusta, casually told the media that the CIA financed the indigenous march, although she offered no evidence for this claim.

Correa himself blames indigenous and labor "elites" for the demonstration, arguing they have no sense of the interests and sentiments of their rank-and-file bases.

Activism has become sedition, and left-wing dissent betrayal of the country.

Two prominent indigenous leaders were arrested at the end of the day on August 13 and roughed up by police: Carlos Pérez Guartambel, of the Andean indigenous organization ECUARUNARI, and Salvador Quishpe, the prefect of Zamora Chinchipe.

Manuela Picq, a French and Brazilian academic and journalist who has lived in Ecuador for eight years on a cultural-exchange visa and is Pérez Guartambel's partner, was also arrested and threatened with deportation.

Just as the right-wing anti-tax protests in June were a sign of the political fragility of Correísmo in the medium term, the weighty presence of the left in the recent protests suggests that the popular sectors sense a change in the balance of forces as well.

"What is at the center of the national debate is the exit from Correísmo," Acosta explains. "How, with whom, towards what, and on what terms."

Yet as Alejandra Santillana Ortíz recently suggested, it can be misleading to map the trajectory of dissent leading to the present moment using proximate catalysts, like the falling price of oil.

Ruptures between social movements and the state began to surface in earnest as far back as 2009 and have intensified measurably over the last three years. Their culmination in the strike on Quito is at least as much a question of this medium durée as it is the response to political-economic developments of the last couple of months.

Sociologist Mario Unda's recent snapshot comparison of the country's principal socio-political lines of demarcation in 2007 and 2013 (the first year of the first and second administrations of Correa, respectively) echoes this perspective.

For Unda, the outset of the first Correa administration conflict was overdetermined in many ways, by the right's fear of Correa's potential radicalism and the left's hope for the same.

Conflict gravitated around the political-institutional terrain of the state, with the right still retaining control of the National Assembly and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. Alongside this institutional competition with the right, big private media corporations lined up against Correa, increasingly playing the role of conservative opposition, as the traditional parties of the right imploded into irrelevance. The principal business confederations in the country also adopted an extremely confrontational stance in the face of the new government.

“The Correa Government's Principal Enemy Had Become The Indigenous Movement And ‘Infantile’ Environmentalists”

At the same time, even in 2007 it was possible to identify certain lines of conflict between the AP government and popular movements and sectors.

Some of these were marginal and localized--disputes over rural and urban service provision, labor disputes, pension disputes, and so on.

However, in the countryside the indigenous movement was already being drawn into battles with the state and multinational capital on the extractive fronts of mining, oil, water, hydroelectricity and agro-industry.

Far from marginalia, these issues proved central to Correa's development model in the years to come.

In 2009, for example, a pair of laws on mining and water sparked the largest protests witnessed in the first three years of the Correa administration.

The mining law facilitated the rapid extension of favorable concessions to multinational mining companies throughout the length and breadth of the country, while the water law privatized access to communal water sources (crucial legislation for large-scale private mining initiatives), limited community and indigenous self-management of water resources, and relaxed regulations on water contamination.

With mineral prices soaring on the international market and oil reserves diminishing in the national territory, Correa staked the country's future on the gold under the soil.

By comparison to 2007, the divisions were much clearer in 2013.

The scene was determined not by the axis of right-wing contestation with the government, but rather by the government's growing disputes with popular movements and their historic allies.

There were conflicts with the bourgeoisie to be sure, but these disagreements were only with certain sectors of the elite, and face-offs with capital no longer accurately captured the determining dynamics of the terrain.

Instead, the Correa government's principal enemy had become the indigenous movement and "infantile" environmentalists, and consequently, the government threw all its coercive and co-optive powers in that direction.

“Criminalization And Control Of Social Protest And Independent Organizing Was A Primary Concern Of The Government”

At the same time, Correa sharpened his relations with public-sector workers, most notoriously laying off thousands through obligatory redundancies.

High schools--students and teachers--were another live field of contention, as the government tried to ram through "meritocratic" reforms in the educational sector. All the while, criminalization and control of social protest and independent organizing was a primary concern of the government.

Ideologically as well, the right had taken on novel forms by 2013, relative to their collective demeanor in 2007. Sections of the traditional right continued to battle for a purist retention of neoliberal axioms, but there were also new experiments--like Creando Oportunidades and the Sociedad Unida Más Acción--that sought to present a public image of moderation and modernity, appropriating much of the language of the Correa administration for itself.

The economic organizations of the bourgeoisie were also developing in interesting directions.

The confrontational disposition of business confederations was largely eclipsed by 2013, and most federations had elected new leaderships whose mandates were to negotiate and reach agreement with a government seen to be far more flexible than originally anticipated. The negotiation hypothesis of the right paid dividends in the creation of a new ministry of foreign trade, and the signing of the Ecuador-EU free trade agreement, which had the enthusiastic backing of all the big capitals.

Unda argues that the dispute between the government and the bourgeoisie had metamorphosed into an internal dispute, and while control of the state apparatus was still a domain of contestation, the field of consensus on capitalist modernization--a fundamentally shared vision of society and development--defined the broader politico-economic backdrop.

Of course, this did not mean the obsolescence of sectional and conjunctural conflict, but it did mean the bourgeois-state axis of conflict had been eclipsed by that of the state-popular movement.

The disputes with business and the right were disputes over control of the same societal project, whereas battle lines between popular movements and the state were drawn over distinct visions of society, development and the future.

There have been recurring moments in Ecuadorian history where the intensity of the horizontal, intra-capital conflicts, in combination with vertical contests between the ruling and popular classes, was simply too much for the existing form of domination to bear. As politicians sought new and more stable forms of domination, instability reigned in the interregnum, until an impasse was reached.

“Correa Restored Profits In Sectors Like Banking, Mining, Oil And Agro-Industry”

Overcoming such impasses, as sociologist Francisco Muñoz Jaramillo points out, has been the work of populists, in Ecuadorian history, of Caesars and Bonapartes.

Think of the left-military government of Guillermo Rodríguez Lara (1972–75) or that of left-populist Jaime Roldós (1979–1982), which took up the ideological mantle of newly emergent bourgeois layers against some of the interests of traditional oligarchs and incorporated the popular sectors through corporatist techniques of sectional negotiation and bargaining.

Between 1982 and 2006, the dominant classes of the country attempted to introduce neoliberal restructuring through a variety of channels. It was a deeply unstable period, reaching an apex in the 1999 financial crisis, followed by a series of mobilizations that threw out various heads of state in succession before their mandate was completed.

The orthodox neoliberal governments of León Febres Cordero (1984–88), Sixto Durán Ballén (1992–96), and Jamil Mahuad (1998–2000) tried and failed, in many ways, to carry out far-reaching structural-adjustment programs, giving birth to right-wing populist experiments, such as Abadalá Bucaram (1996–97) and Lucio Gutiérrez (2003–5).

Accused of embezzlement and corruption, mass protests succeeded in forcing Bucaram's impeachment. A military man, Gutiérrez, after participating in a short-lived coup against Mahuad in 2000, ran on a left ticket in the 2002 presidential elections, but governed from the right, and thus was overthrown as well.

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Correa calmed the storm and restored profits in sectors like banking, mining, oil and agro-industry, and has simultaneously coopted or crushed most independent social movement activity.

Rhetorically, the government has employed vague ideologies, from buen vivir (an indigenous conception of "living well") in the beginning of the administration, to the techno-fetishism that has dominated the last several years (best exemplified in the Yachay Tech university debacle, and some dystopic model cities in the Amazon, as the excellent research team at the local think tank CENEDET has pointed out).

At the end of the day, Correa has been functional to capital.

However, this isn't the same as saying he is capital's first choice--like all his populist predecessors, Correa is expendable.

With the price of oil falling, capital is scrambling to collect what's available and regain more direct control of the state.

It's an uncertain period ahead, and the sentiment on the right is that Correa should go. A recent piece in the Economist captures this nicely, essentially thanking him for his service while showing him the door:

Mr. Correa faces a choice...

He could persist in his bid for permanent power and risk being kicked out by the street, like his predecessors. Or he could swallow his pride, stabilize the economy and drop his re-election bid. He would then go down in history as one of Ecuador's most successful presidents.

The various forces of the left, broadly defined, are meanwhile trying to rebuild and regain initiative and forge the bases of a societal project that is a genuine alternative to both Correa and the right.

But the left is starting from a point of weakness and disarticulation, and the present ideological and political landscape could scarcely be more complicated.

“Movements Are Bound To Be Confused At The Beginning, Confused Because The Thinking Of The Masses At First Moves Among Contradictions, Lack Of Clarity, And Lack Of Cohesion, And Also Because Of The Role That Prophets Still Play In Them”

On The History Of Early Christianity, By Friedrich Engels, *Die Neue Zeit*, Vol. 1, 1894-95 [Excerpts]

And just as those who have nothing to look forward to from the official world or have come to the end of their tether with it — opponents of inoculation, supporters of abstemiousness, vegetarians, anti-vivisectionists, nature healers, free-community preachers whose communities have fallen to pieces, authors of new theories on the origin of the universe, unsuccessful or unfortunate inventors, victims of real or imaginary injustice who are termed “good-for-nothing pettifoggers” by the bureaucracy, honest fools, and dishonest swindlers — all throng to the working-class parties in all countries — so it was with the first Christians.

All the elements which had been set free, i.e., at a loose end, by the dissolution of the old world came one after the other into the orbit of Christianity as the only element that resisted that process of dissolution — for the very reason that it was the necessary product of that process — and that it therefore persisted and grew while the other elements were but ephemeral flies.

There was no fanaticism, no foolishness, no scheming that did not flock to the young Christian communities and did not at least for a time and in isolated places find attentive ears and willing believers.

And like our first communist workers' associations, the early Christians, too, took with such unprecedented gullibility to anything which suited their purpose

In fact, the struggle against a world that at the beginning was superior in force, and at the same time against the innovators themselves, is common to the early Christians and the socialists.

Neither of these two great movements was made by leaders or prophets — although there are prophets enough among both of them — they are mass movements.

And mass movements are bound to be confused at the beginning, confused because the thinking of the masses at first moves among contradictions, lack of clarity, and lack of cohesion, and also because of the role that prophets still play in them at the beginning.

This confusion is to be seen in the formation of numerous sects which fight against one another with at least the same zeal as against the common external enemy.

So it was with early Christianity, so it was in the beginning of the socialist movement, no matter how much that worried the well-meaning worthies who preached unity where no unity was possible.

Jade Helm Observers Unsure What To Do With All This Tactical Shit Now



Wikimedia Commons

September 16, 2015 by Bert Brrrrt, The Duffle Blog

BASTROP, Texas —

Following this week's conspicuously quiet conclusion to the endlessly controversial "Jade Helm 15," many Americans in the Patriot Movement are now finding themselves asking an obvious question: "Well just what in the fuck am I going to do with all this velcro and shit?"

Sitting in the parking lot outside of “Remember the Alamo — And Great Deals, Gun Store LLC”, Nathan Gunderson takes stock of this summer’s now unnecessary tactical shopping spree. Strewn across the bed of his pickup truck are multiple assault rifles outfitted with a variety of night optics, lasers, and flashlights, none of which he has ever been trained to use.

“I wanted to make sure those jack-booted thugs wouldn’t be takin’ us unawares,” said Gunderson, “but now I just have a shitload of jackboots, and nothing to boot them with.”

Gunderson then produced a number of edged weapons, including a serrated machete which he began to swing about in the parking lot. “I didn’t really even know why I bought this, it just seemed like the right thing to do,” he said.

What came to be known as “Jade Helm 15,” the U.S. military’s chosen moniker for a large-scale Special Operations training event across the sprawling American Southwest, also became a rallying cry for the paranoid and unemployed. Hundreds of self-styled Militiamen and Patriots became a fixture patrolling the desert in bizarre convoys, particularly in Texas, where the locals welcomed them with open arms.

But for the soldiers conducting the actual training, it was a different story.

“All we were trying to do was drive down the fucking road so I could drop the water buffalo and go to sleep one night,” said Army Spc. Katherine Gonzales, 21.

“And all of a sudden all these fat dickheads start cutting us off in trucks and filming us with GoPros as they wave American flags and guns.

“One of them called me a tyrant. I told him I was from Oregon, and to eat a dick.”

As the likelihood of a full-blown martial law scenario steadily decreased throughout the summer, members of the Patriot Movement like Gunderson faced a worrisome possibility. If Jade Helm was not the start of an Obama dictatorship lasting for decades, when would it come?

“Just cuz we didn’t have to shoot none of them Feds, it don’t mean they still ain’t tryna take our guns. I can still use this stuff. Shit, I’ll just wear this plate carrier and AR-15 to Applebee’s and scare the shit outta some families,” Gunderson said.

At press time, Gunderson was waving down a passing U.S. Army convoy to request medical assistance following the accidental discharge of one of his weapons into his femoral artery.

ANNIVERSARIES

September 20, 1830:

Honorable Anniversary: “A Group Of 38 Free Black Americans From Eight States, Met In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, With The Express Purpose Of Abolishing Slavery”



Richard Allen

Carl Bunin Peace History September 17-23

The National Negro Convention, a group of 38 free black Americans from eight states, met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with the express purpose of abolishing slavery and improving the social status of African Americans.

They elected Richard Allen president and agreed to boycott slave-produced goods and encourage free-produce organizations. The most active would be the Colored Female Free Produce Society, which urged the boycott of all slave-produced goods.

The Encyclopedia of African-American Heritage, by Susan Altman, Copyright 1997, Facts on File, Inc. New York [Excerpt]

September 20, 1830

On this date in 1830, the National Negro Convention met in Philadelphia, PA. This group gathered for the express purpose of abolishing slavery and improving the status of African Americans.

This first meeting of the National Negro Convention would initiate a trend that would continue for the next three decades.

The formation of another organization had been recommended one which would be called the "American Society of Free Persons of Labor." This group would branch out to several states and hold their own conventions.

These, in turn, would lead to the formation of other organizations. The number of conventions, held at local, state, and national levels, blossomed to such a level that, in 1859, one paper would report that "colored conventions are almost as frequent as church meetings."

September 23, 1939: Disgusting Imperial Anniversary; Hitler Sells Lithuania, Stalin Buys



Hitler-Stalin

Carl Bunin Peace News 9.23 – 9.30

Nazi-led Germany [capitalists pretending to be "National Socialists"] and the Communist Soviet Union [capitalists pretending to be Communists] considered enemies at the time, negotiated an addendum to the Hitler-Stalin Pact ceding Lithuania, the small independent country on the Baltic Sea, to the Soviets' sphere of influence [translation: to the Russian Empire] in exchange for 7.5 million gold dollars.

Josef Stalin, the Georgian who was General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, and Adolf Hitler, Chancellor of Germany, had agreed the previous month to allow Germany free reign [translation: to expand the German Empire] in eastern Europe, leading to Germany's invasion of Poland.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

The Protests In Iraq: “The People Feel Betrayed And Hoodwinked By Religious Garbs” “They Robbed Us In The Name Of Religion”

September 18, 2015 by Mundher Al Adhami, CounterPunch.

Mundher Al Adhami is a Researcher on cognitive and professional development at Kings College London, with a number of school textbooks, articles and manuals on advanced pedagogy for teachers of mathematics; writer on Iraqi issues in English and Arabic; member of the follow-up committee of the Arab-Islamic Conference; member of the Iraqi National Foundation Congress.

There has been sporadic local protests in Southern provinces for the last three years, continuation of the first round of mass protests in 2011 which was violently suppressed.

The local protests involves demonstrations in front of local government offices, blocking public roads, vigils at entrances to oil company and port facilities in Fao, Um Qasr and Ma'aqal. There is a long list of grievances, general and local people complain about, mixed with political tribal rivalries, with trade unions curiously not prominent.

Friday 17 July in Madeyna in Basra a demonstration against the electricity cuts in searing heat turned violent. There was shooting and a young demonstrator Muntadhar Al-Halfi was killed. This sparked more demonstrations in Basra, largest of which was on 31 July with slogans directed at corrupt officials.

There are local rivalries between religious parties that play a role, but the demos was nonpartisan, non-sectarian, and in fact vilified by the main political groups.

This spread to other provinces through various media coordination methods. Basra is the third largest province in Iraq, and produces 90% of the income of the Baghdad government, yet it has neither regular electricity, nor clean drinking water.

Its local government is dominated by religious parties and rife with corruption.

Friday 11 September was the 7th protest Friday of protest in Basra, and the 6th in Baghdad and 8 other provincial capitals: Wasit, Babylon, Kerbala, Najaf, Qadidsia, Muthana, Dhi Qar, and Maysan.

The numbers in Baghdad are declining to the hundreds rather than thousands but in the rest of the country the momentum is maintained and the anger increases.

Baghdadlyya, Sharqiya, Rafidain and Taghyeer TV channels have adopted the protest as a “revolution for reform”. Protests at the town levels are increasing in all the provinces including in Diyala and Ta’amim provinces north of Baghdad.

The focus of the mass protests in the centres of cities went through phases:

At first the focus was on electricity shortages (causing health hazards in the searing heat of summer that exceeded 50 degrees, as well for several years now closing down 17,000 production medium and small industrial and commercial facilities by official figures) and non-payment to farmers and old state sector employees.

The focus shifted quickly to removing corrupt officials and punishing them, including the leadership of main political parties, especially Maliki and his cronies.

The agenda seems initially supported by the government of Prime Minister Abadi itself, and by the religious authorities who have fallen out with the Maliki –Iranian camp, pressing the Prime Minister to remove corrupt officials. The demonstrations were protected by the riot police under command of the PM.

The momentum was initially so great that the parliament unanimously passed a set of austerity measures, pruning some higher level positions.

The focus of the slogans then moved to dismissing the parliament and the constitution and restart the political process anew, without the sectarian quota etc.

The political parties started claiming infiltrations by the Ba’ath and terrorists, withdrew their verbal support, and intimidation tactics started against activists.

But the regularity of the protest drew in several disenfranchised groups of the unemployed and poor, whose numbers seem to increase, judging by the videos of many provincial demonstrations, and the illiteracy of some of the hand-made placards, compared with those raised at the start by the students and professionals.

Several side demands are present simultaneously with the national demand to root out corruption, with people carrying placards with slogans about jobs and non-payment of salaries or compensations, and women carrying pictures of missing young men, or demanding investigations of massacres.

Political groups try to put their imprints, like the so called Democratic Civil Current, under which label spread communists and liberals of various kinds. It does seem that many of the activists are from traditionally Left and communist social background, whether those that accepted the shameful position of the official party in collaborating with the occupation or not.

The Najaf religious authorities were placed under pressure from the dominant slogan of “They robbed us in the name of Religion” and they supported the reform demands. The Hashd groups (formed as militias in 2013/14 loyal to the religious authorities and nominally led by the army and other militias) tried to press for slogans against terrorists, Baathists and ISIS, which surprisingly did not hold.

There is a distinct non-sectarian and anti-sectarian flavour, and a sense that the people feel betrayed and hoodwinked by religious garbs.

The dwindling of the Baghdad numbers seen on 11 September may be understood by the intimidation and attacks on activists, on the political parties instructing their supporters to avoid the demonstrations, and the abandoning of the fight by those in government jobs and pensions, numbered 8 million.

But judging by the increase in numbers and militancy in the provinces, the composition of the protests is shifting towards the workers and the poorer sections of the population.

The anti-sectarian stand of demonstrations is a stark rebuff to the political system as a whole. Even the fight against terrorism and ISIS is missing, and the slogans include placards like “Corruptions is terrorism” or “worse than terrorism”. The big project by the religious authorities and the religious parties of building up support for the popular mobilisation have vanished.

The so called Sadr Current, originally the Shi’a religious mass anti-occupation movement led by Muqtadal-Sadr, is in a difficult position regarding the protest. Their social base are the poor and disenfranchised groups who use its Arab-religious cover as a fence against the influence of Iran-supported groups, and the collaborationist Najaff’s Shi’s authorities.

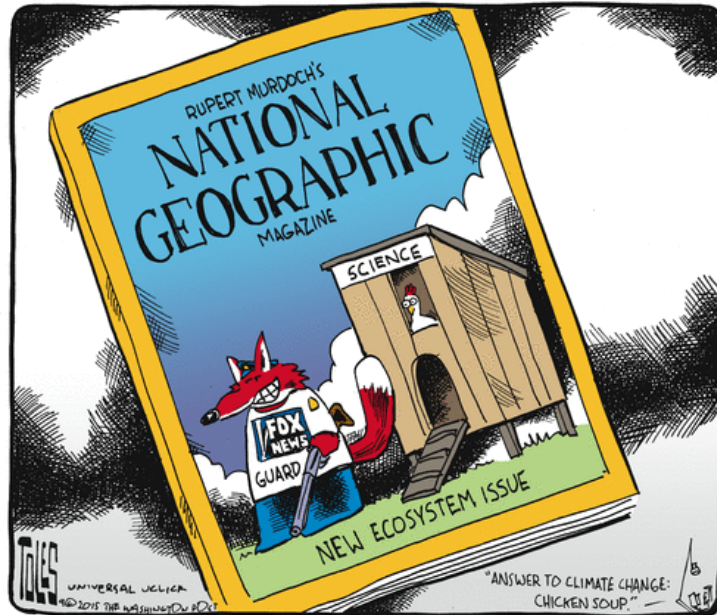
These masses are the natural component of the protests which made some academics call for a political Left-Sadrism alliance, ignoring the religious and cultural aspect as irrelevant. The problem has been the pragmatist zigzagging way of its leader, Muqtada, frequently bending to Iranian pressures at key moments to salvage sectarian political agenda, participating in sectarian killings for a period before denouncing them, joining in the government while denouncing it.

The Sadrism Current ended up splitting into several factions the most prominent being the Maliki –loyal Iranian-funded murderous militia Asa’ibilhaq. The 40 members in the parliament sometimes act differently from its social base and its leader. So do the local councils Sadrism groups implicated in corruption.

But the mass base, and its need for a religious cover, remains potent.

It is the development at this social base level, with or without its current leadership, joined by many other smaller Shi’a religious, urban neighbourhoods, poor countryside tribal, and destitute worker groups, that may be the key factor in what is to happen next in the Iraqi protests.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Palestinian Teenager Shot In Bethlehem:

**“Since The Start Of 2015, Israeli Forces
Have Injured An Average Of 37
Palestinians A Week”**

Sept. 18, 2015 Ma'an

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- A Palestinian teenager was shot and injured by Israeli soldiers during clashes in Bethlehem late Thursday, medics said.

Anas Muhammad Saleh, 17, was shot in the thigh during clashes between Palestinian youths and Israeli soldiers near the Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem.

He was taken to the Beit Jala Governmental Hospital for treatment.

Since the start of 2015, Israeli forces have injured an average of 37 Palestinians a week, according to documentation by the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Frequent clashes occur in Aida camp, which is bordered by an Israeli military site on the other side of the separation wall that lines the camp.

Over 4,700 refugees live in Aida, an area of .71 square kilometers (.27 square miles), with an unemployment rate of 47 percent, according to UNRWA statistics.

**Zionist Forces Attack
Palestinians In Kafr Qaddum:
“Pepper-Spray. The 2 Year Old
Bisan, 6 Year Old Moemen, 8 Year
Old Nour”
“Three People Were Injured With Live
Ammunition By Israeli Forces”
“Forces Prevented Any Medical Aid
From Assisting The Family”**



Tear gas covering the village

September 19, 2015 International Solidarity Movement, Al-Khalil Team

Kafr Qaddum, Occupied Palestine

Today in Kafr Qaddum, a village close to Nablus, Israeli forces injured almost 100 people.

Israeli forces attacked the village at around 11 am and invaded a family home.

Upon breaking into the house Israeli forces attacked the whole family with pepper-spray. The 2 year old Bisan, 6 year old Moemen, 8 year old Nour and a 55-year old woman were all pepper-sprayed.

The Israeli Forces then prevented any medical aid from assisting the family after this aggression.

Three people were injured with live ammunition by Israeli forces, a 13-year old boy and a 46-year old man in the leg and another man was ambushed and shot with live ammunition by Israeli forces while he was in his brothers house.

They are being treated in a hospital in Nablus. 75 people had to be treated for excessive tear gas inhalation.

Occupation Forces Beat Palestinian Prisoner “All Over His Body Especially The Head And Right Leg In Which He

Was Injured By An Israeli Bullet On A Previous Occasion”

18-9-2015 PIC

RAMALLAH-- Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) severely beat up a Palestinian captive during his arrest in al-Khalil.

Lawyer of the Palestinian Prisoners Society Jaclyn Fararjeh disclosed that the IOF soldiers attacked and arrested Musab Zuhair Halayqah, 24, from his home in al-Khalil after midnight Wednesday. She revealed that the soldiers beat him all over his body especially the head and right leg in which he was injured by an Israeli bullet on a previous occasion.

The Israeli troops transferred the Palestinian captive to Etzion jail handcuffed and blindfolded. They continued beating him during transfer to prison which made him faint, the lawyer said.

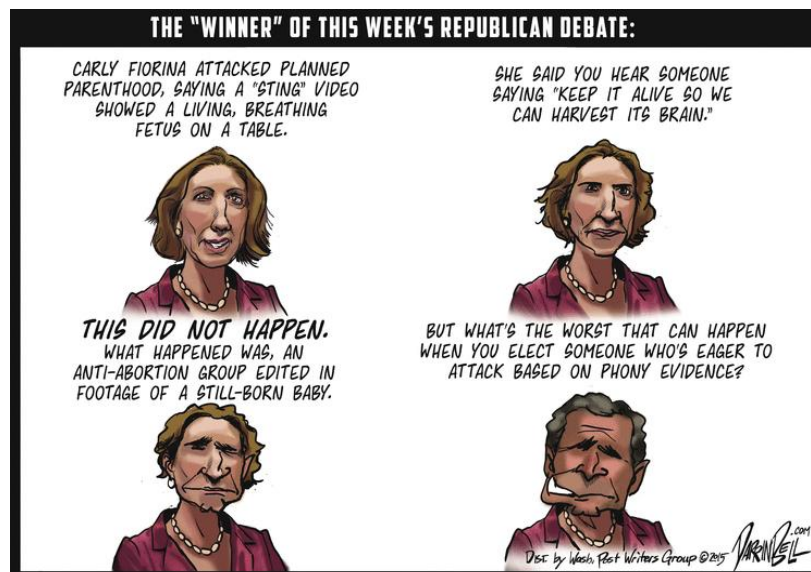
To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:

<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



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Just take a look at that face."]

New Orleans Running Modern Debtors Prison: “Routinely Jailing The Region's Poorest Residents Over Their Inability To Pay Court Fees And Other Fines” “An ‘Illegal Scheme’ To Jail Debtors Until They Collect Enough Money To Pay Off Fines”

September 18, 2015 by Nadia Prupis, staff writer; Common Dreams

A federal class action lawsuit filed Thursday in Louisiana says Orleans Parish has resurrected unconstitutional "debtors' prisons" by routinely jailing the region's poorest residents over their inability to pay court fees and other fines.

The lawsuit, filed against the Orleans Parish District Criminal Court, says New Orleans officials use "jail and threats of jail to collect court debts from thousands of the city's poorest people," leading to "an illegal, unconstitutional and unjust modern debtors' prison," the likes of which were ruled to violate the 14th Amendment in 1983.

Moreover, those taken into custody found themselves left without "notice of how or when they would be released or when a hearing would be held."

The suit takes aim at the city's sheriff's office and court officials for participating in what it calls an "illegal scheme" to jail debtors until they collect enough money to pay off fines or a pre-set \$20,000 bond—funds which then go directly to the court's Judicial Expense Fund, which the suit says constitutes a conflict of interest for judges.

More than 80 percent of defendants in Orleans Parish criminal court qualify as indigent.

Such unconstitutional systems have come under increasing scrutiny in recent years. A similar lawsuit earlier this year in Missouri forced one notorious judge in Ferguson to resign just a month after the claim was filed.

In Thursday's suit, plaintiff Alana Cain detailed her experience being arrested and jailed for missing scheduled payments without being given a chance to plead poverty. Cain in 2013 pleaded guilty to theft after a ring went missing at the law firm where she cleaned floors after hours.

The New Orleans Advocate writes:

"[Cain] was ordered to pay more than \$1,000 in fees, court records show, including \$600 to the Judicial Expense Fund.

According to the lawsuit, the court's Collections Department set up a payment plan, for which she was late once, citing poverty. Cain was pulled over last March on a traffic stop and jailed on a warrant for failure to pay the fees, the lawsuit states. She had some money on her, but her plea fell on deaf ears, the lawsuit states.

After a week in jail, Cain appeared in court, and the judge 'told her that if she ever missed a payment again, she would have to spend 90 days in jail,' the lawsuit states."

"The environment of threats of jail and actual jailing creates a culture of fear among indigent people and their families, who borrow money at high interest rates, divert money from food for their children, and cash their family members' disability checks in a desperate attempt to...avoid indefinite confinement," the suit continues.

And judges' pursuit of debtors' money "has corrupted the basic delivery of justice and resulted in pervasive conflicts of interest and rampant constitutional violations in the procedures for collecting those debts after cases are closed."

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RECEIVED:

ALL-AFRICAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (GC)



From: A-APRP (GC) / Pan-African Roots info@pan-afr
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Evite Kwame Ture Brigade / 20th Million Man March
Date: Sep 17, 2015

[Excerpt]

Kwame Ture Brigade is marching on the White House

The All-African People's Revolutionary Party (GC), the inheritor and continuator of the revolutionary theory and practice of Kwame Nkrumah, Sekou Toure and Kwame Ture, is making a call and a challenge to all, justice-loving and peace-seeking Peoples, particularly Africans, to join the Kwame Ture Brigade.

The Brigade is an independent, radical and revolutionary, Pan-African and International contingent to the 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March, which is being convened on Saturday, October 10, 2015, at the National Mall in Washington, DC.

The Kwame Ture Brigade will gather and rally at Malcolm X Park, 16th and Euclid Street NW, in Washington, DC, on Saturday, October 10, 2015, between 7:00 am and 11:00 am. We will march on and protest at the White House from 11:00 am to 12:00 (noon). We will join the Official 20th Anniversary at the National Mall from 12:00 (noon) to 6:00 pm.

We will name names and carry pictures of people whose lives have been stolen by the police and military in every corner of Africa, the African Diaspora and the World.

We will meet thousands of sisters and brothers, comrades and friends whom we have not seen or talked to in 20 years. We will network with thousands of youth who were not born or of age in 1995. Our focus is on African People, but all of our Allies are welcome to join us.

The All-African People's Revolutionary Party (GC) and the Kwame Ture Brigade are marching on the White House because police misconduct, brutality and murder in the United States have reached pandemic stage, once again. More than 1,312 people's lives have been stolen by the US police since 2013. At least 1,036 Black Lives Matter demonstrations have been held worldwide.

Why the Kwame Ture Brigade?

Kwame Ture was born as Stokely Carmichael on June 29, 1941, in Trinidad and Tobago. He joined the movement as a 9-year old student who attempted to vote for Uriah Butler, a militant nationalist and labor leader. He integrated his middle and high school in New York. He was elected vice-president of the student government at the former, and openly identified with the student left at the later.

As a student at Howard University, Kwame joined the Non-violent Action Group (NAG), the campus affiliate of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He participated in the 1961 Freedom Rides and the campaign to desegregate Route 40 in Maryland. He helped register people to vote in Mississippi, and was the director of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in the 2nd Congressional District in 1964. He helped found the Lowndes County Freedom Organization, the first Black Panther Party, in 1965, which led to the formation of the Black Panther Movement worldwide. He was elected SNCC's chairman in 1966, and shook the world when he re-echoed the millennial call for Black Power.

He traveled and organized throughout Africa, the African Diaspora and the World from January 1967, to his transition to the ancestors on November 15, 1998. He lived in Guinea where he studied and served under the tutelage of Kwame Nkrumah and Ahmed Sekou Toure, the foremost advocates of Pan-Africanism, the total liberation and unification of Africa under scientific socialism. With the founding of the All-African People's Revolutionary, he devoted his life to building the Party by politically educating and organizing students and youth throughout Africa and the African Diaspora.

We name the Kwame Ture Brigade in honor of his contributions to the African and World Revolution! We ask you to endorse and join the Brigade. We also ask you to make a Donation that will enable and empower us to continue and intensify Kwame's life-long work.

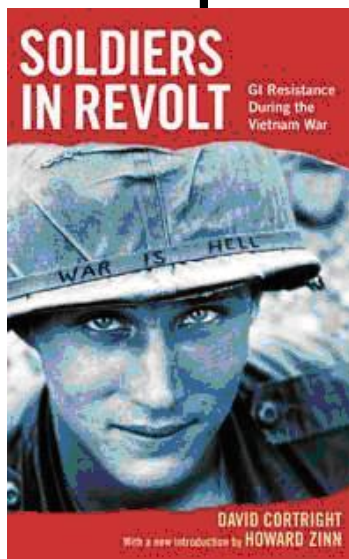
See you at Malcolm X Park on October 10, 2015!

Make a DONATION, today!

See you also at African Liberation Day on May 21, 2016!

Contact us at info@a-aprp-gc.org.

FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY: A Vietnam Veteran Describes The Strategy And Tactics Used By Troops To Stop An Imperial War



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT

[CIVILIANS: \$16 INCLUDING POSTAGE

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**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.

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