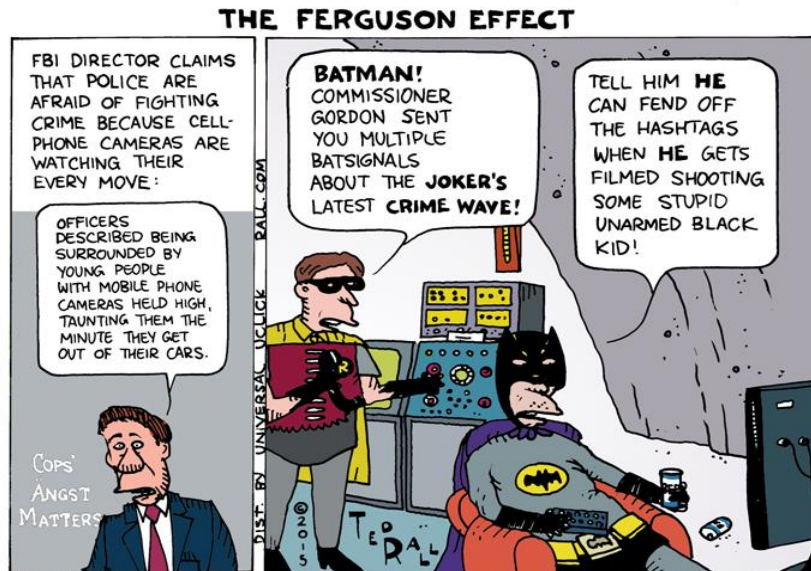


Military Resistance 13K5



**Greek Soldiers Organizing To Refuse Action Against Migrants:
“No Soldier Boards Ships On Missions Against Migrants”
“We Call For A Mass Movement, Both Inside And Outside The Army”
“We Are Aware The Coming Revolts Will Find Those On The Bottom Rung Either United Together Or In Conflict With Each Other”**

From: Diktyo Spartakos
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Greek conscripts: 'we won't take part in fighting migrants'

Date: Nov 9, 2015 12:25 AM

Greetings to you from Diktyo Spartakos, Greece

Conscripts are not going to patrol and arrest immigrants.

Against the use of the army as the ultimate repression force that protects the interests of the capitalists against the working people.

Governments at both USA and Greece use the young people from the labour class as soldiers and - when needed - as cheap labour force. The role of these young people for the government is to be wasted for the sake of the capitalist's interests.

1 November, 2015 libcom.org

A collective statement on the migrant crisis from "Diktyo Spartakos" ('Spartacus Net'), a far leftist formation inside the Greek army, and signed by conscript soldiers from 50 different units.

COLLABORATIVE MEDIA BRIEFING OCTOBER 19 2015 Soldiers Of Diktyo Spartakos



"... flesh torn on barbed wire, children drowned on beaches, hungry people on the streets, crowds of people begging for their papers ..."

Before they became headline news, many of us saw and experienced these shameful images on the River Evros, and on the islands, where we were sent to do our compulsory Military Service of the Absurd, as both slave workers and cannon fodder.

These scenes have shocked us and dominate our discussions.

But we don't want this to become the "new normal".

While not having grown used to and not having accepted the Memoranda and all the policies against the people, of imperialist interventions and their dirty wars, we will not accept and not get used to the refugees' plight.

It is also the plight of our own people, of our own world, the working class world regardless of nationality-religion-gender!

The so-called "increased flow of migrants" is in reality the flight from war and displacement. It is not a natural phenomenon. Someone is responsible for it.

It's their capitalist crisis. To overcome this, they abolish our rights, leaving us starving, in poverty and unemployment, making migration a necessity.

It's the USA, NATO, the EU, China and Russia that is responsible: they impose their financial interests using terror and death, maintaining and reviving new passions and hostilities, feeding on religious fundamentalism.

It's also the regional imperialist powers (Turkey, Israel, Greece, Arab governments) that sharpen rivalries in the region.

It is those who speak of failed states and inferior nations, those who treat people as garbage and take part in mopping up operations, transforming entire zones into human storage dumps for brutal exploitation!

There is only one enemy of the bourgeoisie and its governments: the workers, whether they fight for their rights or are moving about without documents, even when it is capitalist military interventions that led to the uprooting.

But even then, refugees can't choose where to go. The authorities direct migration flows to modern-day concentration camps, the "hot spots". (2)

Of course when migrants and workers are not needed any more or when they try to better themselves, they can be got rid of ...

The Greek state and the army are part of the problem and not its solution.

The SYRIZA-ANEL government continues the War on Terror, participates in imperialistic plans, targets "asymmetric threats" (immigrants, social movements), playing on the false distinction of "good" refugees from war – and "bad" economic migrants.

The Armed Forces call on us, the conscripted soldiers alongside professionals and officers, to make war on the "enemy within", as in the recent Parmenionas 2015 (3) exercise!

In this cycle of death-exploitation-oppression, the "enemies" of Greece and Turkey jointly patrol the Aegean, cooperating in harmony! Furthermore, the EU battlefield starts from Gibraltar ending in the Aegean, with Frontex (4) taking a decisive role.

A Greek submarine participates in the European fleet that operates in the Libyan territorial waters.

We, the 16th Division in Evros, are on guard against migrants coming from Andrianopolis. We're ordered to take part in Crowd Suppression Drills, as in Kos after the dramatic events in Kalymnos, when the governor requested military aid to use weapons against hungry-thirsty-imprisoned immigrants.

We guard the murderous fence which is the real reason of all the drownings in the Aegean.

WE DON'T FIGHT, WE DO NOT SUPPRESS, WE DON'T HUNT DOWN MIGRANTS

We, the soldiers in struggle are against all this, against both their past and present crimes.

We call for a mass movement, both inside and outside the Army:

To block in any way we can Frontex, NATO, the European army, the actions of the Armed Forces as this massacre goes on. We don't participate in arrest patrols.

To assist in demolishing fences and not creating new ones. No soldier boards ships on missions against migrants.

Ships, submarines and aircraft should return to their bases. There should be no attempt to supply them.

We refuse to convert the Greek army into a repressive apparatus, whether that involves confronting migrants or social movements.

We will not accept papering over the cracks in the social structure with "volunteer labour".

For us the real "asymmetric threat" is the war being waged against us by the governments and the interests they support.

We call on our colleagues to not only show compassion but to take note of our common class interests.

It is the bourgeois institutions, bourgeois policies, bourgeois governments themselves which are destroying even our dreams.

What the refugees are now going through – the constant persecution by totalitarian mechanisms of every kind – in the struggle for dignity and survival, their sad present is for many of us the current and future nightmare that we should not have to experience.

It is the Parliamentary totalitarian state in collaboration with the NAZI Golden Dawn.

We are aware the coming revolts will find those on the bottom rung either united together or in conflict with each other.

Today there isn't a better form of solidarity in practice which gives the greatest service to ourselves than attacking the problem at its roots.

We are part of a modern anti-war and labour movement that can exist only within a working class, anti-capitalist and internationalist perspective.

We resist, oppose, and totally reject the government, its imperialist mechanisms, and the bourgeois world of oppression.

(The original was signed by soldiers from 38 units of the Greek Army)

SIGNED BY PRIVATES OF 50 UNITS:

547 Rethymnon Airborne Battalion,
Sparta KEEM,
616 Infantry Battalion,
Avlona KETTH,
535 MK/TP 31st Brigade,
Patra KETCH,
Mesologgi KEN 2/39 SP,
526 MK/TP,
124 PVE Tripolis,
Cpt. Paraschos 29th Infantry Brigade,
ASDYS,
221 EMA Plati Evros,
401 Military Hospital Battalion Administration,
Thiva KEPV,
16 TYP,
Nafplio KEMCH,
Evros Chatzipenti Camp,
211 MK/TO 95 LATETH,
Araxos 116 PM,
3rd Cooking Education Battalion-Gythio Supply Dept.,
647 MK/TP Litochoro,
50 PEA/AP,
SDB Karaiskakis B Company Management,
219 KICHNE Didymoteicho,
173 MEAP Orestiada,
516 MK/TP,
424 SN Thessaloniki,
Evros Vogiatzis Feres Camp,
642 TP,
Bouga Camp,
32 MPP PN,
KEN Kalamata,
643 TE Chios,
123 PTE,

618 M/K TO Plati,
296 M/K TE,
KAAY Agios Andreas,
93 TYETH Lesvos,
503 TP,
95 TYETH,
22 EMA Petrochori,
25 EMA Petrochori,
B EANETH,
107 A/K MMP PEP Didymoticho,
305 SPTCH,
3rd EAN Alexandroupolis,
07 Chatzipenti Koufovouno Camp,
Evros 523 Mavrodentri Kozani.

Notes:

Background footnote information largely provided by the Internationalist Comrades of Greece

(1) This not only means doing the EU's dirty work to keep out migrants, but also attacking Greek workers.

According to the following source efsyn.gr, conscripts of the 523rd Infantry Battalion were ordered to join a secret military exercise in Kozani on Wednesday, October 14 with professional soldiers to "recapture the abandoned AEVAL factory (which used to make industrial fertiliser) that has been taken over troublemakers" (Camp Deputy Commander).

The so-called "troublemakers" had only occupied their own bankrupt factory in a desperate attempt to either keep the thing going and thus their jobs, or to prevent the bosses selling off the assets.

In short, the Army was carrying out the defence of capitalist property relations against the working class. Nothing new there and nothing new in a Left wing capitalist government using ultimate force to defend property rights. Such suppression of the working class is not new and there are plenty of examples from 2008 and 2011. See eagainst.com

(2) The first of these refugee "hot spot" registration centres was established on Lesbos only a few days ago. Refugees are made to queue here, probably for days, to be fingerprinted like criminals before they get a preliminary asylum hearing, which determines if they can be registered for entry into the EU.

(3) The Parmenion Army training exercise takes place every year, but this year's was notorious for being on the fence which the EU pays Greece to maintain and defend on the border with Turkey along the River Evros (see opening of the soldiers' document).

Tsipras, complete with Airforce jacket, attended this year's exercise in which he declared that "Greece's borders were safe". Several refugees (seven are documented by Human Rights Watch) have been gunned down there in recent days by border police.

(4) Frontex is the European Agency for the Management of Operational Co-operation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union. In short, it is the border police of the European Union.

MORE:

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

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

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

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

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

From: "After the Petersburg Uprising: What Next?" (Munich, 20 January 1905)

by L. Trotsky [Excerpts]

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

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

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

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

Confusion breaks out among the troops.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Whose side is the army on?'

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

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

For that purpose people are needed.

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

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

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

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.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“With More Than 3,000 Coalition Dead, There Is Little Appetite In Western Countries For Deeper

Military Involvement In Afghanistan”

**“After 14 Years, Do You Really
Think That 12 More Months Is
Going To Make A Difference?”**

**“Scepticism About Extending A
Mission To Support An Ill-Paid,
Sometimes Demoralized Security
Force Riddled With Corruption”**

“Nobody Is Pleased With The Progress”

**“The Alliance’s Forces Can’t Keep
Helping Forever”**

Nov. 8, 2015 By Reuters [Excerpts]

The Taliban’s success in seizing the northern city of Kunduz in late September and holding it for several days shocked Afghanistan’s international partners, which have invested billions of dollars trying to form a security force capable of standing on its own.

“The situation is sobering. It is not as stable as we hoped it would be,” said Gen. Hans-Lothar Domroese, a veteran of Afghanistan who is Germany’s second-most senior general in the NATO alliance. [“The situation is sobering. It is not as stable as we hoped it would be,” said Gen. Friedrich von Paulus, commander in chief of the German 6th Army, Stalingrad, December 1943.]

Speaking at the margins of a NATO exercise in Spain, he said weak government control in many areas and corruption are making the job of reinforcing security more difficult, but added: “If we don’t stay, they will drift into a maelstrom, and there is a significant danger that they get torn away.”

Formally the NATO-Afghan agreement is open-ended, but in practice its future depends on member countries’ willingness to commit troops and resources.

Officials describe a sense of fatigue and doubt about the strategy of the coalition of NATO partners and allies since Washington’s announcement that it would extend troop levels through most of 2016 because of worsening security.

“Nobody is pleased with the progress,” said one NATO diplomat in Brussels, who spoke on condition of anonymity. “The alliance’s forces can’t keep helping forever. ... Right now we are helping them more than we’d like.”

But after 14 years of fighting, with more than 3,000 coalition dead, there is little appetite in Western countries for deeper military involvement in Afghanistan.

“We will not go into a new combat operation,” NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters recently.

Afghan officials have repeatedly pleaded for help in areas like close air support when forces come under attack by the Taliban, but a lack of equipment and trained personnel has made strengthening the tiny air force difficult.

However, some Western officials express scepticism about the value of extending a mission to support an ill-paid, sometimes demoralized security force riddled with corruption.

“After 14 years, do you really think that 12 more months is going to make a difference?” said a Western official. “The strategy is flawed. We’re building and funding the wrong army.”

He said the Afghan government cannot afford to build a security force of 352,000, its target strength, or even one much smaller. At present, the international community funds more than 90 percent of Afghan security forces’ operating costs.

Sources said Resolute Support’s focus on helping bolster complex systems like budgeting, logistics and intelligence, while crucial in the long-term, are dogged by more fundamental challenges the large army and police force face.

“You can’t focus on budgeting if soldiers don’t have food,” said a Western diplomat in Kabul.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

77-Year-Old Blind Man Calls 911 For Help: Cop Shows Up, Beats & Arrests Him;

“He Was Released, Bloodied And Bruised, Without Charges”

“I Thought They Would Have Killed Me If They Thought They Could Get Away With It”

November 1, 2015 By Matt Agorist, The Free Thought Project

Denver, CO —

Philip White was traveling back home from a conference on technical advancements to assist the blind on May 22, 2012, when he missed his bus in Denver.

White, who was 77 at the time, and blind, called the police after the bus station security guard told him he had to leave the station. This call would prove to be detrimental.

White was told that the bus was full and he couldn't get on board. He only wanted to discuss options with staffers at the terminal, but he eventually was told by a security guard that he was “trespassing” and he'd have to leave the terminal, according to court documents.

“Philip White missed his bus to the mountains, when he asked Greyhound staff for help in catching the next bus home, he was told by a security guard he was trespassing and had to leave the Greyhound Bus Depot,” said White's attorney Mari Newman.

“This is a Master's Degree holder and long-time educator who was set upon with excessive force as police violated his civil rights, all over a bus ticket.”

After being told to leave, White declined and then called the police. Officer Kyllion Chafin of the notoriously brutal Denver police department showed up.

Though White had placed the call to police, Chafin escalated the situation to violence. White, who did not know Chafin was a police officer since he couldn't see him, asked to feel Chafin's badge to confirm he was an officer.

“He told me ‘You aren't touching me,’” said White.

According to KDVR:

“The cop grabbed his arms, forcing them behind him, then cuffed him so tightly he suffered nerve damage in his fingers — or eyes, for him. He was then slammed into the ticket counter leaving his head bleeding.

“When Sgt. Bob Wykoff arrived, instead of trying to defuse the situation and offer the blind man help, without reading White his Miranda Rights, he began to videotape a bus station interrogation without White’s consent.”

White was then brought to the downtown jail where he sat for eight hours before police realized they had no reason to keep him.

He was then released, bloodied and bruised, without charges.

“I thought they would have killed me if they thought they could get away with it,” said White. “I always trusted cops, but now my confidence in them is shaken. I felt so bad I wanted to leave the USA.”

On Friday, Denver taxpayers were held liable for Chafin’s violence. A jury awarded White \$100,000 in compensatory damages and \$300,000 in punitive damages.

Chafin faced zero discipline and his department defended his brutal actions.

“We respect the court and we respect the jury’s decision,” said Sonny Jackson, a police spokesman. “We reviewed the case. We didn’t find any violations of policy. We are always looking for ways to improve.”

MILITARY NEWS



Iranian Activists Organize Against Military Aid To Mass Murderer Assad:

“The Islamic Republic Must Terminate All Of Its Financial, Military, And Intelligence Aid To The Assad Regime”

Sep. 27, 2015 By Golnaz Esfandiari, RFE/ RL

Scores of Iranian political activists and intellectuals have launched an online campaign calling on Iran to end its support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and take in Syrian refugees fleeing violence there.

The more than 70 activists, who include several former political prisoners, blame Assad and his foreign supporters, including Tehran, for the exodus of tens of thousands of Syrian refugees to Europe.

They have launched a Facebook page called Sorry, Syria, where so far about two dozen users have expressed “shame” over Iran’s assistance for Assad’s “crimes” and warned that silence could be interpreted as consent.

“We believe it is our main responsibility to denounce the destructive intervention of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly, the Qods force, in the Syrian crisis,” the activists said in a statement sent to RFE/RL, referring to the Quds Force, an elite wing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).

They also said that Iran should host some of the Syrian refugees “to alleviate a small part of the great pain that it has inflicted on the Syrian people.”

More than 9 million Syrians have been displaced by the four-year conflict, 6.5 million of whom remain in the country and more than 3 million of whom have fled to immediately neighboring countries, according to the European Migration Policy Center.

A spokeswoman for the United Nations refugee agency, the UNHCR, in Iran told RFE/RL that the agency was not aware of any Syrian refugees in Iran. “We haven’t had any request for asylum (from Syrians) and Iran has not informed us of any asylum request,” she said.

She added that the process of obtaining an Iranian visa had been fast-tracked for Syrian citizens who arrive at Iran’s borders and that their visas could be renewed.

Speaking on September 21, the head of Iran’s judiciary, Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani, blamed Western countries for the refugee crisis. “It is the result of Western help to terrorists,” domestic media quoted him as saying.

Iran has been a staunch supporter of the Syrian regime, its only ally in the region. Iranian authorities have reportedly helped Assad remain in power through financial help and military advisers.

Some members of the IRGC have been killed in Syria in recent months, according to Iranian media, which said they had traveled to Syria voluntarily to defend a holy shrine and fight “terrorists” and the Sunni extremist group Islamic State (IS).

The activists urge Iranian action to respect the basic rights of Syrians. “The Islamic republic must terminate all of its financial, military, and intelligence aid to the Assad regime and allow the formation of an interim government without Assad,” the statement says.

The call is likely to be ignored in Iran, where crimes by Syrian government forces and the bombing of civilian targets go unreported by the tightly censored media.

Criticism of Tehran’s support for Assad has been rare in Iran, and Iranian rights activists have also been largely silent about Iran’s role in Syria, where the violence has killed more than 200,000 people.

The campaign condemning Iran’s support for the Syrian government comes amid fresh expressions of support for Assad in Tehran.

Ali Akbar Velayati, a former foreign minister and adviser to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said on September 8 that “no one but Bashar al-Assad can save Syria from this situation.”

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on September 7 said those who have demanded Assad’s exit “in the past two years should be blamed for the continued war, and they should account for the bloodshed in the past few years.”

Iranian President Hassan Rohani said in June that his country will remain by the Assad regime’s side “until the end of the road.”

Assad said last month that he is confident of the continued support of allies Iran and Russia.

Pharmacies Targeted Over Fraudulent Claims To Military Health Program That Covers 9.5 Million U.S. Military Members And Their Families: “They Falsely Billed Tricare For Expensive Pharmaceutical Creams

And Gels To Treat Pain, Scars And Other Ailments”

“Salespeople Paid Doctors To Write Prescriptions”

Nov. 8, 2015, By Joseph Walker, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

Federal prosecutors in at least four states are mounting investigations into what they describe as widespread fraud by compounding pharmacies in claims to the health-insurance program that covers 9.5 million U.S. military members and their families.

In the latest move, four Florida pharmacies last month agreed to pay \$12.8 million combined to settle civil allegations that they falsely billed the insurance program Tricare for expensive pharmaceutical creams and gels to treat pain, scars and other ailments, according to A. Lee Bentley III, the U.S. attorney for the Middle District of Florida.

Two of the compounding pharmacies, which make customized medicines by mixing pharmaceutical ingredients, employed salespeople who paid doctors to write prescriptions to Tricare beneficiaries, prosecutors said.

In some cases, doctors would conduct telephone consultations with beneficiaries and then write them prescriptions, despite having not met with the beneficiaries in person, prosecutors said. Those prescriptions were illegitimate because they weren't based on genuine doctor-patient relationships, a violation of the federal False Claims Act, the prosecutors said.

One of the pharmacies had paid commissions of up to 58% of the amount paid by Tricare to marketers who promoted their drugs to physicians, prosecutors alleged in settlement agreements.

The commissions amounted to improper kickbacks in exchange for referring business to a government agency, the prosecutors said.

Mr. Bentley said his office is pursuing “numerous criminal investigations” in Florida. His office aims to begin filing criminal charges no later than early 2016, he said.

His office this summer settled civil fraud allegations against two other compounding pharmacies, which agreed to pay a combined \$12.2 million.

Billings from compounding pharmacies have soared in the health-insurance program for active and retired military personnel and their families.

In many cases, pharmacies charged Tricare between \$10,000 and \$40,000 for a one-month supply of compounded medication, prosecutors said.

Tricare paid \$1.75 billion for compounded drugs during its 2015 fiscal year that ended in September—18 times the amount paid in 2012, according to Defense Department data.

Compounded drugs represented 19% of Tricare’s estimated \$9.14 billion prescription drug budget in 2015, up from 1.3% in 2012, according to the data.

“I believe that the increase is due almost entirely to fraud,” Mr. Bentley said in an interview. A Defense Department official said it estimated 95% of the increased costs were inappropriate.

The sharp increase in spending on compounded drugs was the primary driver behind a \$1.3 billion shortfall in the military’s health-care budget earlier this year, Mark Wright, a Defense Department spokesman, said in an email. Defense officials redirected funds from other programs to compensate for the shortfall, Mr. Wright said.

Jason Mehta, an assistant U.S. attorney for the Middle District of Florida, said Florida prosecutors are still investigating Tricare billing claims and are considering criminal charges against the pharmacies, drug marketers and physicians cited in the settlements.

Separately, Justice Department prosecutors in several other states, including California, Mississippi and Texas, are working with investigators from the Defense Department and other federal agencies to pursue civil and criminal charges against other pharmacies that have billed Tricare, as well as marketers and doctors, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Compounded medicines are often necessary for patients with specific needs, such as those requiring a liquid formulation of a medicine because they can’t swallow pills, Tricare officials said.

But Tricare spending on compounded pain medicines began to skyrocket around 2012 as pharmacies, often working with independent marketing companies, aggressively marketed the drugs to doctors and patients, said Mr. Mehta.

Some marketing firms scoured social-media websites like Facebook to identify military members and their spouses and then contact them to promote compounded creams, Mr. Mehta said.

The schemes may have targeted Tricare members because the program was known to reimburse compounded drugs more generously than other federal health programs like Medicare, Tricare officials said.

Pharmacy operators “saw a lack of control, and the door was wide open for unproven therapies and to charge whatever they could get,” said George Jones, chief of pharmacy operations at the Defense Health Agency, which oversees Tricare.

Prosecutors allege Med Match LLC, a Jacksonville, Fla.-based pharmacy, paid commissions of as much as 58% of its profit from each prescription to sales representatives employed by a marketing firm.

One saleswoman received \$190,000 in commissions over one month for prescriptions filled by the pharmacy, according to communications between Med Match and the saleswoman reviewed by the Journal.

In the settlement agreement, the government alleges that Med Match's payments to the marketer constituted kickbacks.

Prosecutors also allege that Med Match knew or should have known that a large number of prescriptions it received from one Jacksonville physician weren't legitimate because "the sheer magnitude and volume of prescriptions was far in excess of any other provider," according to the settlement agreement, and were all for the same substance regardless of the patient's age or condition.

OHM Pharmacy Services Inc., based in Auburndale, Fla., agreed to pay \$4.1 million to settle allegations that it billed Tricare for around \$2.5 million in fraudulent prescriptions written over a five-week period.

The vast majority of prescriptions for which OHM billed Tricare were written by another Jacksonville doctor who wrote about 150 prescriptions for patients in about 10 states over that five-week period, according to the Florida prosecutors.

An attorney for OHM, Robert Nicholson, said in an email that OHM offered to refund the money it received from Tricare once it was informed by the government that the "prescribing physician had not properly ordered the medications," Mr. Nicholson said.

The other two pharmacies that settled with the government, Durbin Pharmacy and WELLHealth Inc., also based in Jacksonville, agreed to pay a combined \$3.98 million to settle the government's allegations.

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

Democracy, true democracy, is never superseded.

It is the first thing that a revolution establishes..

..--C.L.R. James; Notes On Dialectics

Writer Comments In 1891 On The 2016 U.S. Elections

March 18, 1891 Friedrich Engels, Introduction to The Civil War In France [Excerpts]

Nowhere do ‘politicians’ form a more separate and powerful section of the nation than precisely in North America.

There, each of the two major parties which alternately succeed each other in power is itself in turn controlled by people who make a business of politics, who speculate on seats in the legislative assemblies of the Union as well as of the separate states, or who make a living by carrying on agitation for their party and on its victory are rewarded with positions.

It is well known how the Americans have been trying for thirty years to shake off this yoke, which has become intolerable, and how in spite of it all they continue to sink ever deeper in this swamp of corruption.

It is precisely in America that we see best how there takes place this process of the state power making itself independent in relation to society, whose mere instrument it was originally intended to be.

[We] find here two great gangs of political speculators, who alternately take possession of the state power and exploit it by the most corrupt means and for the most corrupt ends--and the nation is powerless against these two great cartels of politicians, who are ostensibly its servants, but in reality dominate and plunder it.

ANNIVERSARIES

November 13, 1933: The First Recorded “Sit-Down” Strike In The U.S.



Hormel strikers

Carl Bunin Peace & Justice history November 9-15

The first recorded “sit-down” strike in the U.S. was staged by workers at the Hormel Packing Company in Austin, Minnesota.

When the Independent Union of All Workers (IUAW) went on strike, the company tried to bring in scab (strike-breaking) workers.

“Four hundred men, many of them armed with clubs, sticks and rocks, crashed through the plant entrance, shattering the glass doors and sweeping the guards before them. The strikers quickly ran throughout the plant to chase out non-union workers.

“One . . . group crashed through the doors of a conference room where Jay Hormel and five company executives were meeting and declared “We’re taking possession. So move out!” (Larry Engelmann, “We Were the Poor -- The Hormel Strike of 1933,” Labor History, Fall, 1974.)

The tactic worked: within four days Hormel agreed to submit wage demands to binding arbitration. The success of this strike reinvigorated the labor movement, which had been in decline throughout the 1920s.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Moscow Protest Against Russia Role In Syria:

**“Police Blocked Access To The
Site To Prevent More People
Joining”**

**“Police Arrested A Woman Waving A
Banner Reading ‘Putin Assassin,
Don’t Bring Shame On Russia’”**

**“Some People At The Heart Of The
Authorities Organise These Wars To
Hang On To Power”**

17 October 2015 AFP

MOSCOW –

Around 200 people demonstrated in Moscow on Saturday against Russia’s campaign of air strikes in Syria, with one protester arrested by police.

The rally by people in a small central park passed off amid tight security as the authorities threw up a strong security cordon.

The demonstrators oppose Moscow’s decision to carry out air strikes which began targeting assorted Syrian rebel groups on September 30.

One opposition party, Solidarnost, had called for a protest -- but the majority of those who showed up wore pacifist badges rather than any suggesting political allegiance.



AFP: Russian demonstrators hold an anti-war rally in central Moscow, on October 17, 2015

Less than an hour into the demonstration, police arrested a woman waving a banner reading “Putin assassin, don’t bring shame on Russia,” and bundled her into a van.

Police then blocked access to the site to prevent more people joining, but despite their efforts, protesters continued to chant slogans against the military intervention as well as against corruption in Russia.

Some brandished banners promising to visit “hell upon those who bomb in the name of peace.”

Organiser Svetlana Kravietz, 42, told AFP that “war is not what we need in our country -- we already have many problems to solve. We are going through a serious economic crisis.”

Fellow protester Dmitri Stipanov, 36, said: “Today they show us initial successes -- just as they did at the start with Afghanistan” following the Soviet invasion in 1979.

“But afterwards it all degenerated -- and today I think we’re in for a repeat,” Stipanov said.

Kravietz said she believed the air strikes were part of a hidden Moscow agenda.

“We’ve already had a war with Ukraine and now that is calming down we’re off to war in Syria,” she said, seeing the manoeuvre as political skulduggery.

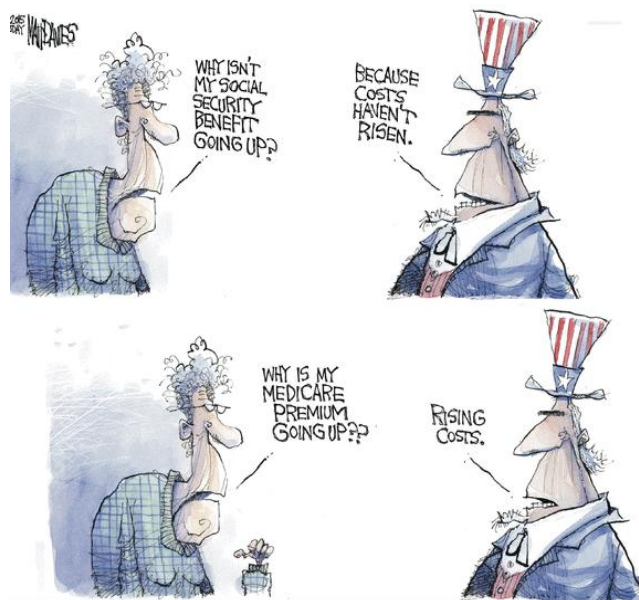
“Some people at the heart of the authorities organise these wars to hang on to power and not to help anybody.”

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Saturday that Russia is fighting for its national interests in Syria, not for President Bashar al-Assad.

“Of course we are not fighting for specific leaders, we are defending our national interests, on the one hand,” Medvedev said in an interview to air on state television.

“And secondly, we have a request from the lawful authorities (of Syria). That is the basis we are working on,” he said, quoted on the government website.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Zionist Force Raids Hospital,
Blocks Medical Care In
Occupied Jerusalem:**

“Israeli Forces Entered The Hospital And Began Shooting Tear Gas And Rubber Bullets”

“It’s Clear Harassment To Our Team And Ambulances – Israel Is Trying To Obstruct Our Work”

“Israel Is Intimidating Medical Staff So That They Will Become Reluctant To Treat Wounded Protesters In Future”



Palestinian doctors and medical employees protest outside al-Makassed hospital against the storming of the East Jerusalem medical facility by Israeli forces, 29 October. (Mahfouz Abu Turk / APA images)

2 November 2015 by Charlotte Silver, The Electronic Intifada

A dozen soldiers charged down the halls of al-Makassed hospital to the office of its director, Dr. Rafiq al-Husseini, and demanded the medical records of a 16-year-old boy in Israeli custody.

Al-Husseini complied, handing over the records of the boy who had been treated only a few days earlier for a bullet wound to the foot.

The next day, more soldiers returned. This time they demanded the hospital's surveillance videos for specific dates.

For three straight days, Israeli soldiers rampaged through East Jerusalem's only emergency hospital, located on the Mount of Olives.

Medical and human rights groups say the raids are part of a pattern of Israeli obstruction to medical care in the occupied city.

Over the last month, Israeli occupation forces have seriously hindered medical care to Palestinians by blocking ambulances at checkpoints, harassing medics and violating patient privacy.

Al-Husseini told The Electronic Intifada that the soldiers had brought along a computer specialist but were unable to find the footage they wanted. So they confiscated the entire hard disk where the surveillance video was stored.

As the only emergency facility accessible to Palestinians in the city, al-Makassed has treated most of the 370 demonstrators injured in East Jerusalem over the last month.

In October, 72 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces and Palestinian medical services say they have treated 8,262 injured Palestinians throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Almost 800 were shot with live ammunition.

Two Palestinians died in October after delays at recently installed checkpoints in East Jerusalem.

The raids at al-Makassed last month interrupted the treatment of patients. Staff were prevented from doing their work and their sense of security and safety was severely compromised, hospital director al-Husseini said.

Staff held a sit-in at the entrance of the hospital on 29 October to protest the raids.

"After 30 minutes, the Israeli forces entered the hospital and began shooting tear gas and rubber bullets inside the hospital," al-Husseini said.

Two patients were hit with rubber-coated steel bullets and one staff member was hit with a tear gas canister, he added.

Physicians for Human Rights-Israel released a video showing tear gas being fired in the hospital grounds.

Israeli forces summoned two doctors for interrogation, al-Husseini said. One was held for nearly two days. The army questioned the doctors about who had accompanied the boy whose medical records were seized.

In addition, at least four nurses have been summoned for interrogation.

“Israel Is Intimidating Medical Staff So That They Will Become Reluctant To Treat Wounded Protesters In Future”

“It’s a puzzle. What else do they want? They have the boy in custody and all his medical records,” al-Husseini said of the army’s ongoing presence.

He said he believes Israel is intimidating medical staff so that they will become reluctant to treat wounded protesters in future.

The International Committee of the Red Cross expressed concern over Israel’s raids on the hospital.

“The authorities have a right to carry out searches and law enforcement operations. Our concern is these are disproportionate and have nothing to do with medical care,” a spokesperson told The Electronic Intifada.

In a more forceful statement, Robert Piper, the UN’s humanitarian coordinator for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, said, “Actions that undermine the ability of health workers to provide care to those in need are violations of international law. The conduct by the Israeli security forces during several entries into al-Makassed hospital this past week is unacceptable and must not be repeated.”

Under an Israeli law held over from British colonial rule, hospitals are required to hand over information on patients deemed by authorities to be criminal suspects.

Israel occupied East Jerusalem in 1967 and annexed it, a decision unanimously rejected by world governments and the United Nations.

“Al-Makassed receives all the demonstrators in East Jerusalem; you cannot say that a protester is a suspect of a violent crime,” Hadas Ziv, director of public outreach and ethics for Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, told The Electronic Intifada.

Ziv said that the raids make the hospital vulnerable: “It sends a signal that Israel doesn’t see it as a hospital, but as a shelter of so-called terrorists. This is very dangerous.”

The harassment of the hospital and its staff, Ziv fears, may lead Palestinians to avoid seeking treatment altogether.

Israel has previously used this law against protesters. In October 2000, Palestinian towns in present-day Israel witnessed large demonstrations in response to Israel’s violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Israeli police responded to unarmed protesters with brutal force, killing 13 and injuring hundreds.

Israeli authorities demanded that hospitals provide names of all the protesters they treated. Physicians for Human Rights-Israel appealed the demand at the time and the government backed down, but the law remains on the books.

Following the raids on al-Makassed, the group wrote to Israel's ministries of health and security, asking for more information.

"It requires very extreme circumstances to attack the neutrality of hospitals," Ziv said.

Hospital director al-Husseini said the Israeli authorities regularly request information on patients, but they do so with a court order and without the presence of armed soldiers.

"It absolutely violates the patient's privacy," he said.

"But we don't challenge the court order," he added. "This is an occupying force. We don't like giving them any information, but we give it to them by their force ... and soldiers."

"Israeli Forces Disguised As Palestinians Raided A Hospital In Nablus Last Month And Abducted A Patient From His Bed"

Elsewhere in the West Bank, Israeli forces disguised as Palestinians raided a hospital in Nablus last month and abducted a patient from his bed.

The obstruction of medical work in East Jerusalem is not confined to hospital raids.

Erab al-Fuqaha, a spokesperson for the Palestine Red Crescent Society, told The Electronic Intifada that her organization's ambulances have been severely hindered by new checkpoints erected by Israeli forces.

Last week, 52-year-old Nadim Shqeirat died in Jerusalem's Jabal al-Mukabir neighborhood after suffering a heart attack. Palestinian medics said that Israeli obstacles cost them valuable minutes reaching him.

A week earlier, 65-year-old Huda Darwish died after her family were held up at a checkpoint in the Issawiyeh neighborhood as they tried to get her to hospital. She had respiratory difficulties after breathing tear gas fired by Israeli forces.

According to the UN monitoring group OCHA, Israel has placed 38 obstacles on East Jerusalem roads, including 16 checkpoints, directly affecting nine neighborhoods with a combined population of 138,000.

Two of the new checkpoints are near the Red Crescent station on the Mount of Olives.

"Whenever an ambulance wants to come or go they are stopped and searched and the team and patients are checked," al-Fuqaha said. "This affects the rate of patients coming to the hospital."

Red Crescent workers in medical uniforms have also been physically assaulted in Jerusalem and elsewhere in the West Bank, and prevented from attending to injured Palestinians.

“It’s clear harassment to our team and ambulances – Israel is trying to obstruct our work,” al-Fuqaha said.

She cited two occasions that Israeli forces prevented medics from treating Palestinians who were shot during alleged attacks in Jerusalem.

“International law requires that occupation forces allow medical workers to perform medical treatment,” al-Fuqaha said.

Dr. Walid al-Hummar, director of East Jerusalem’s Augusta Victoria hospital, which specializes in cancer treatment, told The Electronic Intifada that he has seen a marked decline in the number of patients this month.

“The checkpoint is a killer to us,” he said.

Augusta Victoria is only a block from al-Makassed but is now separated by a checkpoint directly outside the hospital’s entrance.

Al-Husseini hopes the raids will cease, but he knows that as long as protests continue, his hospital will remain the primary source of medical care for the injured.

Referring to the teenager lynched in Jerusalem last summer, he added, “We saw them in the two intifadas, we saw them last year after the murder of Muhammad Abu Khudair, and we see them this year.”

Israeli Forces Storm, Shut Down Radio Station In Occupied Hebron: “They Destroyed Equipment And Ordered The Station’s Closure”

Nov. 3, 2015 Ma’an

HEBRON -- Israeli forces on Tuesday morning stormed the offices of a Palestinian radio station in Hebron, where they destroyed equipment and ordered the station’s closure, in the latest violation of press freedoms in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Manbar al-Hurriyya (Freedom Tribune) radio station, which is reportedly affiliated with Fatah, wrote on its website that Israeli forces had destroyed equipment inside the offices and confiscated other equipment.

The soldiers then issued a military order notifying employees that the station was to be closed and its broadcast banned.

The Israeli army said in a statement that the station was shut down “as part of the ongoing battle against incitement.”

It continued: “Forces confiscated broadcasting equipment in order to prevent the incitement which has caused a flare of violence in the region over recent weeks.”

It accused the radio station of encouraging “stabbing attacks” and “violent riots,” and reporting “false and malicious claims of security forces executing and kidnapping Palestinians in order to provoke violence.”

The statement said that Israeli forces had shut down the station twice before, in 2002 and again in 2008.

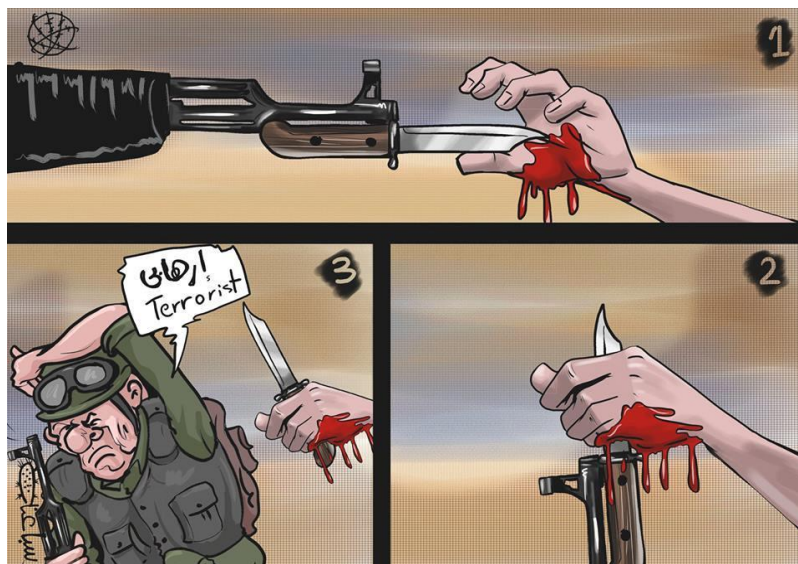
The incident comes a day after a Palestinian press freedoms watchdog condemned more than 450 violations of media freedoms since the beginning of the year.

The Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms, known as MADA, said in a statement that it “condemns the ongoing violence against Palestinian journalists by the Israeli Occupying Forces,” including more than 100 violations in October alone.

It said that “continued impunity with lack of accountability” encouraged Israeli forces “to commit more crimes and assaults.”

The watchdog said that while press violations had not reached last year’s proportions, when 17 Palestinian journalists were killed by Israeli forces in Gaza, violations had “witnessed an enormous escalation this year.”

The group called for accountability, but also for “preventing censorship and persecution of journalists and activists regarding their opinions and comments on social media.”



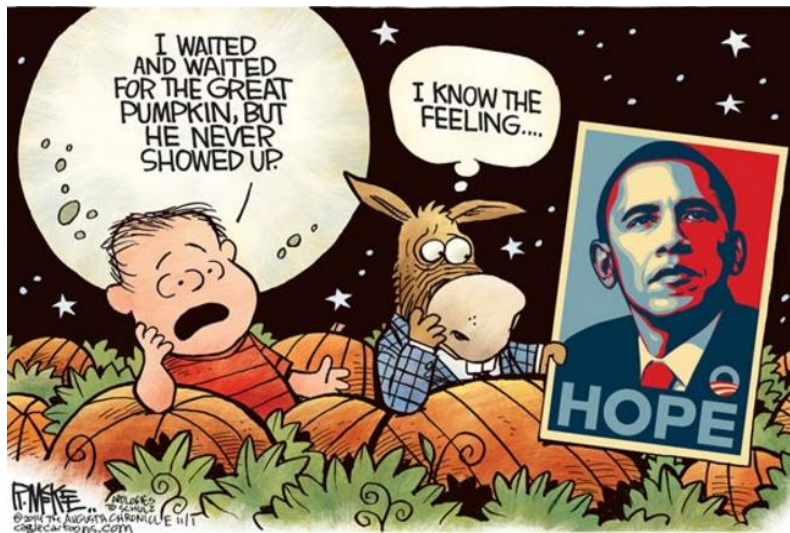
To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:

<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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