

FREE

#187.1 Nov-Dec 2018 - Hard rain gonna come?



TIME FOR NATIONAL DISOBEDIENCE

To All Active Duty Soldiers: ORGANIZE TO RESIST

Your Commander-in-chief is lying to you. You should refuse his orders to deploy to the southern US border should you be called to do so. Despite what Trump and his administration are saying, the migrants moving North towards the US are not a threat. These small numbers of people are escaping intense violence. In fact, much of the reason these men and women—with families just like yours and ours—are fleeing their homes is because of the US meddling in their country's elections. Look no further than Honduras, where the Obama administration supported the overthrow of a democratically elected president who was then replaced by a repressive dictator.

These extremely poor and vulnerable people are desperate for peace. Who among us would walk a thousand miles with only the clothes on our back without great cause? The odds are good that your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc. lived similar experiences to these migrants. Your family members came to the US to seek a better life—some fled violence. Consider this as you are asked to confront these unarmed men, women and children from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. To do so would be the ultimate hypocrisy.

The US is the richest country in the world, in part because it has exploited countries in Latin America for decades. If you treat people from these countries like criminals, as Trump hopes you will, you only contribute to the legacy of pillage and plunder beneath our southern border. We need to confront this history together, we need to confront the reality of America's wealth and both share and give it back with these people. Above all else, we cannot turn them away at our door. They will die if we do.

By every moral or ethical standard it is your duty to refuse orders to "defend" the US from these migrants. History will look kindly upon you if you do. There are tens of thousands of us who will support your decision to lay your weapons down. You are better than your Commander-in-chief. **Our only advice is to resist in a groups. Organize with your fellow soldiers. Do not go this alone. It is much harder to punish the many than the few.**

In solidarity, Rory Fanning & Spenser Rapone *

OFFICERS AND GENTLEMEN AGREE: NO US TROOPS ON THE BORDER!

James Stavridis, a retired Navy admiral and former head of U.S. Southern Command, said the troops should be preparing for combat and other missions, "not monitoring a peaceful border" for the arrival of a migrant caravan of several thousand people on foot, still about 900 miles away. "It sends a terrible signal to Latin America and the Caribbean as we unnecessarily militarize our border." Stavridis, who also served as the top NATO commander, said: **"It places U.S. troops who are fundamentally untrained for the mission of border security and border enforcement into an area of operations, which could cause incidents of a negative character.** If we need more border patrol agents, hire them."

David Lapan, a retired Marine colonel who is a former spokesman for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the Department of Homeland Security, said that taking troops away from training and from their families to play a supporting role in border security is unwise. "It just doesn't make any sense," said Lapan, now a vice president of communications at the Bipartisan Policy Center. **"This caravan, this group of poor people, including a lot of women and children, doesn't pose a threat — not a national security threat."**

"This is another version of the parade," said Derek Chollet, former senior policy adviser at the Pentagon, referring to Trump's demand earlier this year — eventually withdrawn — that the military spend millions to stage a parade in Washington, D.C. "This is not a good use of U.S. military resources at this moment. Trump was frustrated in his effort to build a physical wall on the border, now he's trying to build a human wall by using the U.S. military."

The troops going to the border areas of Texas, Arizona and California are a small fraction of the military's roughly 1.3 million active-duty members, and the mission is set to last only 45 days. If National Guard forces had been selected, state governors would have had to approve their deployment. Earlier this year when Trump requested military support at the border, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis authorized that up to 4,000 personnel could fulfill the request. Governors sent only about 2,100 forces total, and several governors refused. Up to 6,000 Guard members were called up by Bush in 2001, reduced to 3,000 in the next year. Obama called up to 1,200 Guard members for Border work as well.

Tara Copp Pentagon Bureau Chief for militarytimes.com/news

To all citizens of the US: YOU'RE PAYING FOR THIS...

-Continued on Page 15

XL PIPELINE BLOCKED!

A federal judge has ruled that the Trump administration violated bedrock U.S. environmental laws when approving a federal permit for TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL tar sands pipeline project. The judge blocked any construction on the pipeline and ordered the government to revise its environmental review.

The decision is a significant setback for a pipeline that investors are already seriously questioning. TransCanada has not yet announced a Final Investment Decision on whether to move forward and build Keystone XL should it receive all the necessary permits.

U.S. District Court Judge Brian Morris found that the Trump administration's reliance on a stale environmental review from 2014 violated the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Administrative Procedure Act. This ruling follows the court's previous decision, on August 15, 2018, to require additional analysis of the new route through Nebraska.

The court required the U.S. Department of State to revise the proposed project's environmental impact statement to evaluate the extraordinary changes in oil markets that have occurred since the previous review was completed in 2014; to consider the combined climate impacts of approving both the Keystone XL and other tar sands pipelines; to study the many cultural resources along the pipeline's route; and to examine the harmful risks of oil spills on nearby water and wildlife.

The State Department must also provide a reasoned explanation for its decision to reverse course and approve the permit, after the Obama administration denied it just three years ago on the same set of facts.

Based on these violations, the court ordered the State Department to revise its environmental analysis, and prohibited any work along the proposed route — which would cross Nebraska, South Dakota, and Montana — until that analysis is complete. Keystone XL would have carried up to 35 million gallons a day of Canadian tar sands — one of the world's dirtiest energy sources — across critical water sources and wildlife habitat to Gulf Coast refineries.

Plaintiffs Northern Plains Resource Council, Bold Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of the Earth, Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club filed the lawsuit in March 2017 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana.

"Today's ruling is a victory for the rule of law, and it's a victory for common sense stewardship of the land and water upon which we all depend. Despite the best efforts of wealthy, multinational corporations and the powerful politicians who cynically do their bidding, we see that everyday people can still band together and successfully defend their rights. All Americans should be proud that our system of checks and balances can still function even in the face of enormous strains," said Dena Hoff, Montana farmer and member-leader of the Northern Plains Resource Council.

"Farmers and our Tribal Nation allies in Nebraska, South Dakota and Montana celebrate today's victory foiling the Trump administration's scheme to rubber-stamp the approval of Keystone XL. This now ten-year battle is still far from over. We'll continue to stand together against this tar sands export pipeline that threatens property rights, water and climate at every opportunity, at every public hearing. People on the route deserve due process and the Ponca Trail of Tears must be protected," said Mark Hefflinger, communications director for Bold Alliance.

-Mark Hefflinger boldnebraska.org

Victory for Valve Turners in Minnesota!

More pipeline news on page 15:

* Rory Fanning,

Former US Army Ranger, War-Resister-

following two deployments to Afghanistan with the 2nd Army Ranger Battalion, Rory became one of the first U.S. Army Rangers to resist the Iraq war and the Global War on Terror. In 2008–2009 he walked across the United States for the Pat Tillman foundation. Rory is the author of **Worth Fighting For: An Army Ranger's Journey Out of the Military and Across America** and co-author of **Long Shot: The Triumphs and Struggles of an NBA Freedom Fighter.**

He has bylines at Common Dreams, The Guardian, The Nation, and TomDispatch. In 2015 he was awarded a grant from the Chicago Teachers Union to speak to CPS students about America's endless wars and to fill in some of the blanks military recruiters often ignore about America's endless wars. As a sponsored lifetime member of Veterans for Peace, Rory has traveled multiple times to Japan on speaking tours to express solidarity with those seeking to abolish nuclear weapons and close U.S. military bases around the world. Rory currently lives in Chicago and works for Haymarket Books.



Spenser Rapone, Former US Army Ranger and Infantry Officer, War-Resister-

Spenser was kicked out of the military for posting a photo of himself at his West Point graduation ceremony with an anti-war sign under his hat.