

Changing Moral in the 3rd Millenium

Our moral is influenced by the opinion expressed repetitively in our surroundings. Bearing in mind that a considerable part of global terrorism is state sponsored, the moral changes resulting from the 'War against Terror' slowly slides from being a consequence as one possible purpose of the rough circumstances. In the following, some outbursts of these primitive tendencies are collected in the following. These are both connected to a continuing deprivation of civil rights in several nations, which is given consideration in the end. The danger is that you, the reader, might get so accustomed to the ongoing deterioration of basic civil rights that you also find it all right that suspected terrorists are treated worse – regardless who raises the suspicion.

Leading the Detour: P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act

In the wake of 9/11, the United States was immediately presented a complex of laws, (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001) which were probably prepared in the months between the inauguration of the Bush administration in January and the historical event in September 2001. These laws [1] give the authorities wide-ranging permissions to spy on their citizens without legal concession, among others. People claimed by the authorities to be terrorists can be held for a longer time before seeing a judge, spoken, written and electronic communications can be intercepted, even the list of books lent by anybody from the local library can be demanded – just to mention some of the precautions. The use of the term "Free World" for America is totally misleading.

Lawmakers who barely read the text in the mental storm after 9/11 accepted the PATRIOT act 1. In the US, Cheney has become the administration's foremost 'advocate of torture.' President Bush authorized the prison camps in an executive "finding" 6 days after 9/11. It "gave the CIA broad authorization to disrupt terrorist activity, including permission to kill, capture and detain members of al Qaeda anywhere in the world" [2]. The result was the development of 'black sites' where the 'disappeared' victims of American foreign policy could be taken and treated with impunity. These prisoners have been abducted from sovereign nations, in clear violation of international law, tortured and, perhaps, killed, without any type legal process in place to shield them from the arbitrary authority of US agents. Repetitive terror-alerts helped keeping this an ongoing process, to be repeated in other countries of Europe and in Australia.

Unlawful Excesses

Immediately after the Afghanistan war, almost 660 prisoners of war [POW] were brought to a hastily erected prison in the American colonial exclave at Cuba, Guantanamo Bay. Although around 1/3 of the original prisoners were discharged, the majority have now spent 4 years in the camp without any legal process, not even a charge, and the released prisoners – some of them children between the age 12 and 15 – have been replaced by others, so that still more than 540 humans remain there.

Guantanamo ('Gitmo') is the oldest US overseas outpost. The Americans have controlled it since the Spanish-American War in 1898. The U.S. government obtained a perpetual lease. Cuba is steadfastly refusing to cash any payment checks, arguing that the lease is illegitimate and occupation terminated.

A POW enjoys certain guarantees under the Geneva Convention. The Americans claim, however, that the prisoners there are 'unlawful combatants' and their presence at Cuba does not make them subject to American jurisdiction. A Supreme Court decision from 1950 established that "non-resident enemy aliens have no access to our courts in wartime" [3]. Several lawsuits with the opposite conclusion have been ignored.

1 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USA_PATRIOT_Act

2 <http://www.uruknet.com/?p=17463&hd=0&size=1&l=e>

3 <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,41744,00.html>

The question is, how much irregular care and how much virtual torture and humiliation is experienced among the prisoners at Guantanamo. Various statements have emerged from released prisoners and some concessions even been made from the authorities (i.e. the desecration of versions of the Koran being washed down the toilet).

In November 2005, the Washington Post reported that the CIA upheld various prisons worldwide [4]. Largely, this was just a confirmation of known facts, what prisons in Afghanistan, Thailand, Jordan and Egypt are concerned, but also two Eastern European countries are among them – which are not specified. US-based Human Rights Watch said that a study of international air flight data, covering the summer of 2003, suggests that the 'black sites' are in Romania and a former army airport in northeast Poland [5]. How many prisoners are held here, remains uncertain, but there can hardly be any doubt about that this implies an 'outsourcing' of torture. The Danish government, otherwise an uncritical ally of the US in Iraq and Afghanistan, has denied CIA the right to over fly Danish soil with prisoners – which they still do, after all [6].

Torture Prisons in Iraq

Less than a year after the invasion, Abu Ghraib abuse scandal broke out, with the release of appalling pictures depicting the torture and sexual abuse of Iraqi detainees. Ignorant soldiers who failed to realize that these pictures would one day be used against them made the pictures. And then we haven't seen the worst: a new load of pictures has been withheld by orders of Rumsfeld, arguing that their publication could stimulate anti-American sentiments.

There are good reasons to believe that the orders for committing torture came from the highest places. Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, former Chief of Colin Powell's Staff, reported a number of notes and guidelines for the care of prisoners. The track led over Rumsfeld's office direct to the staff of acting Vice-president Cheney [7].

The general living circumstances in Iraq is in many places converted to slavery. While the occupation forces have lost control of the situation, they act nervously and brutally. There is hardly a family, which cannot report being influenced by random imprisonment, violence and various deprivations. Most Iraqis now acknowledge that, while Saddam Hussein's regime was undoubtedly a malicious dictatorship, their circumstances of living have rapidly deteriorated in recent years after the 'liberation.'

Israeli Law and Order

The attitude of the Israeli occupation forces towards the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza has deteriorated steadily under the brutal reign of Ariel Sharon. In particular in the West Bank, there are hardly men between 15 and 50 who have not been in prison; women, children and old men dominate the villages. The racist laws of the country permits 'administrative imprisonment' for periods of six months without formal charge, to be prolonged indefinitely, if so required. Also a secret prison (1391) with advanced torture methods has been described [8]. It has been removed from the map ...

Israel's human rights violations are rampant in the occupied territories, including intentionally killing civilians, house demolitions and land grabs. The so-called 'security fence,' an 8 m high concrete wall (imagine the wall once splitting Berlin termed a 'fence') has several purposes not correlated to security. In keeping Palestinians locked up in Ghettoes, they are cut off from cultivating their land, which then falls to the Israeli state – which, in turn, immediately donates it to the settlers. As an example of the consequences, the inhabitants of the village Khableh now need two hours journey and the passing of at least two Israeli dishonouring control points to reach the town of Qalqilyah, previously just some minutes away.

The condition is worse in Hebron, site of the most aggressive settlers. There is no wall in the city, the enemy is within and slowly conquering more of the soil, Palestinians are not free to move, children are attacked when going to school, sheep poisoned on the

4 <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/01/AR2005110101644.html>

5 http://aljazeera.com/cgi-bin/review/article_full_story.asp?service_ID=9970

6 <http://www.berlingske.dk/grid/indland/artikel:aid=649832>

7 <http://www.baz.ch/news/index.cfm?ObjectID=598FBDB7-60CF-2062-F49B3BB8F03FDE5C>

8 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/israel/Story/0,2763,1084796,00.html>

adjacent fields. The most impressive description of the West-Bank racist measures from the occupation forces and criminal settlers has been made by an Israeli Jew, Israel Shamir, in his recent book, 'Flowers of Galilee,' which I strongly recommend for a deeper insight – the French translation was banned, so buy it while you can.

Since the departure of the settlers from the coastal region of Gaza, the Israeli military are testing out more advanced methods of terror against the inhabitants. Almost daily one can read about 'preventive killings,' mostly by remotely controlled weapons onboard unmanned flying drones. The rapprochement of the Palestinians to the coast has introduced a new weapon in the hands of the Israeli: the unmanned and armed vessel. Without disturbing any Jewish settlers, a new method of terror is now carried out over Gaza, as reported in the Guardian [9]: "The removal of Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip opened the way for the military to use air force jets to create dozens of sonic booms by breaking the sound barrier at low altitude, sending shockwaves across the territory, often at night. Palestinians liken the sound to an earthquake or huge bomb." Small children are particularly victimized by this invention, but the nightly sleep-deprivations are also effectual towards the adults.

Australian Reality

On Nov. 3, one could read in Forbes [10]: "The Australian Senate has held a special sitting to rush through amendments to anti-terrorism laws, a day after Prime Minister John Howard said he had received credible reports of a possible attack." Anyone supporting the insurgency in Iraq, Afghanistan or any country where Australian troops are deployed could face a penalty of 7 years' jail under the new terrorism laws. Control orders of unlimited duration, secret preventive detention, the monitoring of lawyers, and life imprisonment for funding terrorist organisations are also included [11]. Prime Minister John Howard has successfully transformed his country to a police state. At least from the point of motives, this makes him join ranks with other suspects of the Bali terror bombings of 2002 and 2005.

European Eruptions

The ongoing primitivization of human minds can best be illustrated by a quotation of the directress of the British MI5, Dame Eliza Manningham-Buller, who on Oct. 21 stated, "torturing detainees does help interrogators to obtain evidence that could save lives" [12]. Let alone making possible what was previously detested, no single case is known where torture rescued anybody. No weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq in spite of extensive torture, no details from the 9/11 revealed. Apart from moral concerns, the question of the *purpose* of the now ongoing torture must be raised.

Without raising such questions, a number of European countries have also raised the issue of performing 'anti-terror laws' or are sharpening existing regulations. Partly, these new laws and regulations are only legalizing the existing practice. Below, you see a survey of the problem, reflecting present and planned violations of civil rights. The relations to any effective combat of terrorism must be doubted; therefore the measures confirm the authorities motives for stimulating terrorism themselves. As mentioned elsewhere (literature studies of [9/11](#) in USA, [3/11](#) in Madrid, [7/7](#) in London, [Middle East Terror](#) and 10/1 at Bali – only some of which are available on the net), this suspicion goes so far as to see the responsibility for these terror acts directly by state authorities.

The War against Terror has turned to be a war of terror, or terror for war.

9 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/israel/Story/0,2763,1607450,00.html>

10 <http://www.forbes.com/work/feeds/afx/2005/11/02/afx2315201.html>

11 <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=16769&hd=0&size=1&l=x>

12 <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,22989-1836797,00.html>

Terrorlaws dimishing civil rights

Country	General surveillance	Telephone-tapping	Access to public registers	Detention w/o a juridical approval	Free speech limitations
UK	>100,000 video cameras active. Passenger lists open to secret services	Not yet permitted as evidence in criminal cases. To be accessible for secret services *	Permitted with juridical approval, to be facilitated with new registration of ID cards	Currently ... days, wanted by Blair 90 days *	3 years prison for glorifying terrorism *,#
France	Video surveillance of public areas normal	Demanding juridical approval easily obtained	Authorities has access to all public registers	Suspicion of terrorism justifies detainment for 6 days, liberally prolonged	Anti-Zionist speech and printing persecuted, ex.: Shamir's 'Flowers of Gallilee' for alleged 'anti-Semitism' #
Spain	Video surveillance of public areas normal	Demands juridical approval. All telephone-data to be kept for one year *	Authorities has access to all public registers	Terror suspects may be detained for 5 days without juridical approval #	Forbidden to praise terrorism, abused for persecuting Basque independence movement #
Germany	Video surveillance of public areas normal	Demanding juridical approval easily obtained	Authorities has access to all public registers	Normal detainment 3 days. Allegedly planned terrorism has led to jail sentence of 8 years.	Forbidden to praise terrorism, anti-Zionist speech and printing persecuted. Press has been searched for contact to Al-Zarqawi #
Denmark	Video surveillance of public areas shall be carried out *	To be possible without juridical approval - Police shall be permitted to terminate contact *	Authorities shall have access to all public registers*	Normal detainment only 24 hours without juridical approval	Still a free speech area
Australia	Secret surveillance cameras can be installed in airports and aircraft, and airline and shipping company passenger details can be seized	Judges can stop suspects from using the internet or telephones *	Monitoring of lawyers and the customer records of financial institutions planned *	Support of insurgents results in 7 yr prison, secret "preventive detention orders" 14 days pro-longed for up to 12 mo. *	"Directly or indirectly counselling or urging" a terrorist act and "directly praising" terrorism shall be criminal *,#
(Palestinians in) Israel §	Unlimited surveillance, more aggressive than in any other country	Unlimited surveillance, more aggressive than in any other country	Unlimited surveillance, more aggressive than in any other country	'Administrative detainment' for 6 months, to be prolonged indefinitely. Targeted killing and official land-grab prevail	No free speech detectable (but Jewish sources are still tolerated)
USA	No limits for the authorities	No limits for the authorities	No limits for the authorities	No limits for the authorities - detainees so far known to have been held imprisoned for > 4 years	Forbidden to praise terrorism, anti-Zionist speech and printing persecuted. Press is obviously censored #

* Proposed in red, existing rules in blue, existing practice (you can never know exactly)

§ Not accepting racial laws, giving Jews better conditions, this must be the measure for Israel

What a suspicion or appraisal of terrorism is, remains the interpretation of the authorities

December 22, 2005

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