

What is worse than Terrorist Attacks?

The Human Rights Foundation condemns the unjustified war assault upon the poor, innocent and defenceless people in Afghanistan. This is an unjust war being waged by strongest country in the world against the poorest country in the world. The US has contemptuously rejected many appeals to prove their case against Osama Bin Laden in an independent international court. Surely the US has nothing to fear if its case is as watertight as it would lead us to believe? Or are the public concerns expressed by US officials about the "holes" in their evidence the main reason for the US to refuse this request. Is George Bush junior any different from his father who said "I will never apologise for the United States of America. I don't care what the facts are" (George Bush (snr) ("The Rogue State", William Blum)

The entire basis for the war is unproven allegations which rightly should have been submitted to an impartial independent court such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ). It is interesting that the US and Israel are the two countries which have been most reluctant to give their support to the establishment of the International Criminal Court which could also have had jurisdiction.

The U.S. attack is not war but a reckless, emotional act of revenge under the banner of fighting for freedom and human rights. "US Policy, under the banners of freedom and human rights, has led to barbarous criminal acts" Institute for Policy Studies, Washington.

It must be remembered that the attack on the Twin Towers was not perpetrated by the government of Afghanistan. The attack was by alleged individuals. War is a state of hostilities between two countries. Instead of attacking the perpetrators for an alleged "war" on the U.S. (which the Twin Towers attack was not) the U.S. has declared war on the government and people of Afghanistan. Afghanistan is so hopelessly outmatched by the superior military capability of the US that it is effectively a mass murder and a slaughter of the innocents. George Bush has said that he wants Osama Bin Laden "Dead or Alive" as in the days of the Wild West.

The U.S. attack on Afghanistan is not even a terrorist attack - it is worse. "Terrorist attacks" by 'freedom fighters' are attacks by the weak designed to draw attention to a just cause and are usually resorted to by people who have exhausted all other means to draw attention to injustices and oppression. Our own history shows that the US and the apartheid regime in South Africa called the ANC a 'terrorist organisation' while we called them 'freedom fighters'. The US has a perverted sense of values: It was the strongest ally of the former apartheid regime in SA and responsible for the arrest and imprisonment Nelson Mandela for 27 years as a result of the provision of intelligence by the CIA to the former apartheid government. The US voted against many resolutions at the United Nations which sought to impose sanctions against apartheid South Africa. This is the same US which claims to act in the interests of worldwide "freedom and democracy"

We must not lose sight of the important distinction between a "freedom fighter" and a "terrorist" or we will fall into the US propaganda trap of demonizing all people (as well as their "moral supporters" and the countries in which they live in and the religion they happen to follow) who have no other option but to use "terrorist activity"

as a political weapon. The US has made it clear that it will not distinguish between the "terrorist" and the country that "harbours" a terrorist. What does this mean? It means that any country in which there are known "terrorists" (by the US definition of terrorist which conveniently excludes itself and its allies) is a potential target for "anti-terrorist activity" The US conducts its own covert operations ("US terrorist activity"?) by allocating a budget of \$30 Billion for this purpose. We need to differentiate between "harbouring" a terrorist and the need to request proof of the guilt of a person before action is taken.

History will record the mass murder and terror in Afghanistan by the U.S. (which CNN prefers to refer to as the "War on Terror") as a shameful event in the history of mankind. The due process of law has not been followed and the US has assigned to itself the role of judge, jury and executioner against an entire country. Once a court has found and convicted the true perpetrators of the attacks than the appropriate punishment should be meted out to the real perpetrators. Prior to this any act of aggression and death caused is illegal and is nothing less than the murder of innocent people.

The US is using sophisticated computer controlled gunships in an international posse of countries involved in a wild-west style manhunt to "smoke out" their prey, such passion unbecoming of a world leader purporting to believe in civilised values. What the US is doing in Afghanistan is a systematic campaign of terror on a far more concerted basis than what it accuses the terrorists of the September 11 attack. The difference is that they do not care if the accused is guilty; nor do they care how many innocent civilians they kill in achieving their military, economic and strategic objectives in the region. An indication of the continuing callous attitude of the U.S. is the response of Colin Powell in respect of question posed to him on the number of Iraqi's killed in the Gulf War when he said, "Its really not a number I'm terribly interested in" William Blum in "Rogue State" believes that if a list had to be compiled of American leaders guilty of crimes against humanity, Colin Powell may be one of them. The deaths of civilians in this unjust war is referred to as 'collateral damage' by the US.

According to UN reports the effect of the war has caused a humanitarian crisis potentially affecting between 4-7 million civilians who face not only starvation but the effects of exposure to icy cold weather without any form of heating and medical supplies. The US, in order to mute world condemnation and in an attempt to win over the suffering people resorts to the insulting use of scattering haphazardly food for 37 000 people when those starving are in excess of 4 million. Before the war, aid agencies at least ensured that all those who needed food received it. However the actions of the U.S. has disrupted supply of aid and misinformed the public of the true humanitarian impact of the war reflecting the dishonesty of the U.S. in claiming concern for the Afghanistans people.

The Mute Complicity of the Media

The atrocities committed by certain nations often receive only passing attention. The media attention to the Twin Towers attack was of course necessary. However what is to be condemned and exposed is the lack of any attention by the mainstream media to atrocities of a similar or far greater magnitude in the the past 10 - 20

years, significant of which is the horrendous bombing of Iraq which led to the death of over 1.5 million people over the next 10 years and to this day the strangulating economic sanctions imposed by the US and UN on Iraq are the cause of the painful and excruciating deaths of 5000 children every month. Do you know what the impact is on a mother to watch a child die a long excruciating painful death due to starvation? Every month 5000 children die in this cruel, inhuman way and the world does not even take notice. Are they any less worthy of our attention than the 5000 people who died on September the 11th? Do you know the psychological impact of being in Afghanistan at present when every moment of the day is like playing a game of Russian Roulette? When you have no idea when the next bomb will 'accidentally' miss its target and destroy your home? When you have nowhere to run because the borders are sealed? Besides an entire city in Afghanistan has no electricity and water as a result of the destruction of its infrastructure. This alone will cause countless deaths over the coming weeks. The refugee crisis is mounting and there are several hundred thousand refugees who have nowhere to go since all borders have been sealed.

"We will never see the smoke, and the fire, we never smell the blood, we never see the terror in the eyes of children, whose nightmares will now feature screaming missiles from unseen terrorists, known only as Americans" Martin Kelly (see Rogue State)

"It is a scandal in contemporary international law, that while "wanton destruction of towns, cities and villages" is a war crime of long standing, the bombing of cities from airplanes goes not only unpunished but virtually unaccused.

Air bombardment is state terrorism, the terrorism of the rich. It has burned up and blasted apart more innocents in the past six decades than have all the antistate terrorists who ever lived.

Something has benumbed our consciousness against this reality. In the United States we would not consider for the presidency a man who had once thrown a bomb into a crowded restaurant, but we are happy to elect a man who once dropped bombs from airplanes that destroyed not only restaurants but the buildings that surrounded them. I went to Iraq after the Gulf War and saw for myself what the bombs did; "wanton destruction" is just the term for it."

-C.Douglas Lummis, political scientist. (as quoted in "Rogue State", William Blum)

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

The Human Rights Foundation intends to inform the public about many issues which are not given prominence in the mainstream media. We intend to further inform people of the facts relating to the crisis which will enable people to make an informed decision. We need your support and help in this regard. You can assist in one or more of the following ways:

a) Assist to distribute information, newsletters and pamphlets in your local area to inform people about the true situation. Please call us if you wish to set up a local sub-chapter of an anti-war coalition in your area. (Act

Now to Stop War and End Racism - A.N.S.W.E.R)
b) Assist by supporting the collections for humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.
c) Participate in a "National Conference on Human Rights" in which various organizations will be asked to deliberate over a period of 2 days to prepare a comprehensive well formulated plan of action to assist towards ending what amounts to shameful atrocities against the innocent Afghan population.

THE WAR ON ISLAM

The Book entitled "The War on Islam" by Enver Masud is a required read for any person who wishes to obtain facts about US foreign policy and actions of the US which you will not find on CNN or the mainstream news media. The Human Rights Foundation wishes to thank the author of the Book Enver Masud of the Wisdom Fund based in the USA for permission to print a special limited South African version of the latest edition of his book. His earlier version of this book is available in the U.S. for \$ 18 plus shipping (Total of R 300 approx). We are pleased to announce that the Human Rights Foundation has secured the rights to publish this book which will be made available FREE in South Africa. We intend to publish 5000 copies of this book. Donations to defray the costs of printing the book and costs for these adverts would assist the Human Rights Foundation in continuing its activities which have until now been funded solely from our own private resources.

This book is also available in electronic format and the electronic version is also available free for non-commercial personal use. The web address at which this book can be downloaded is at www.twf.org

In this advert below we have publish key excerpts verbatim from the Book "War on Islam" to give the reader a good idea of the wealth of information contained in the book. The book will give answers to the following questions:

- What is the track record of the United States in regard to respect for Human Rights?
- Is this war being fought for the purpose of democracy and freedom or is there another motive?
- Is the use of "secret evidence" by the United States acceptable in terms of the rights of the accused?
- What is the record of Human Rights violations of the United States? Who is in fact the worlds worst violator of Human Rights and who can be called the Super Rogue state?
- What are the real motives for US foreign policy?
- What has been the US position on the formation of the International Criminal Court? Why is the US so concerned about the establishment of the ICC? Have any senior US officials (past and present) been found guilty of war crimes and who are these people?
- What influence does Israel have on US policy?

The book "War on Islam" will give you answers to the above and many other questions. Please call us at (012) 336-600 ext. 6425 if you wish to receive a free copy of the book "War on Islam" or if you wish to provide assistance in any way. We welcome any support in our struggle for world peace and justice for all.

Dr. M. Adam
Chairman - Human Rights Foundation

The following are extracts from the book "The War on Islam" by Enver Masud

WHY THE WEST FEARS ISLAM

When one examines the West's fear of Islam, and tries to relate it to the reasons usually given - Muslim fundamentalism, militancy, radicalism, terrorism, totalitarianism - it is difficult, if not impossible, to justify this fear on the basis of the reasons usually given. One has to believe, however, given all the facts and expertise available to the West that the fear has to be rational. What is this fear that causes enemies of the Muslim world to play subtly on the theme of the Crusades in order to demonise Islam and Muslims? Let us first examine what it is not, before we draw our conclusion as to the real reason why the West fears Islam.

The fear of Islamic fundamentalism, militancy, radicalism, terrorism, totalitarianism, and the West's discovery of the "rogue states," appeared quite conveniently with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Former Defence Secretary McNamara, in his 1989 testimony before the Senate Budget Committee, said U.S. defence spending could safely be cut in half. It became clear that the U.S. had to either undergo massive shifts in spending, a painful and unwelcome prospect for the defence establishment, or find new justification for continuing high levels of military expenditures.

And, leaving aside the morality of US covert operations which invite retaliation, Muslim terrorists should not be a major fear. Far more acts of terrorism and violent crime in the US, according to government statistics, are committed by non-Muslims than Muslims. And if Muslims do pose a terrorist threat to the US, one hears little discussion of what it is that the terrorist want. Perhaps, all they want is for the West to stop interfering in their countries, in ways that we would never tolerate in the US.

As for fundamentalism, Islam has no parallel to the US Protestant Christian movement which opposed modern scientific theory, and which coined the term in 1920 to designate those "doing battle royal for the fundamentals." Rather Islam has, from its birth, stressed the use of reason and logic. Islamic law is based upon the Qur'an, examples and sayings of Prophet Muhammad, analogical deduction, census among the learned, and individual reasoning. According to Muhammad Asad (The Message of the Qur'an) when the Prophet's contemporaries heard the

words Islam and Muslim, they understood them as denoting man's "self-surrender to God" and "one who surrenders himself to God," without limiting himself to any specific community or denomination, eg. in the Qur'an, 3:67, where Abraham is spoken of as having "surrendered himself unto God" (kana musliman), or in 3:52 where the disciple of Jesus say, "Bear thou witness that we have surrendered ourselves unto God (bianna musliman)." In Arabic, this original meaning has remained un-impaired.

The late Marshall G.S. Hodgson, in Rethinking World History, states: "Islam's conscious hopes for a godly world order represent one of the most remarkable undertakings in world history and because its less self-conscious general cultural heritage is laden with human values." Muslims see the West beset with broken families, violent crime, and drugs.

They see a society divided by race, religion, and huge disparities in income. They long for a peaceful life in which they may provide for the basic needs of their families, and enjoy the respect due to all mankind regardless of their race, religion, position or wealth."

April 25, 1996 The Holocaust Continues

Just over 200 years ago, on July 4, 1776, the US rallied people to these marvellous words in the Declaration of Independence: "WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." The proclamation of that lofty ideal followed the holocaust of about 15 million native Americans, and has yet to be fully realised in the US. And beyond the shores of the US, presumably, these "Truths" do not apply.

(According to Robert D. Crane, principal foreign policy advisor to Richard Nixon from 1963 to 1968, President Reagan, after his attempted assassination, said that his only purpose for the rest of his life was to be an instrument of God in bringing goodness and peace to the world. Adds Dr. Crane, "Completing the American revolution is another term for Islamizing the world." - "The Grand Strategy of the Great Jihad." Middle East Affairs, Journal, Summer/Fall 1998).

August 27, 1998 U.S. Foreign Policy Invites "Terrorism"

US foreign policy invites "terrorism." To end it we must end policies that create it. Graham E. Fuller, former vice-chairman of the National Intelligence Council at the CIA, and Charley Reese, self-described "ex-soldier", now a columnist for the Orlando Sentinel, are right on target in their recent articles following the US missile strikes on Sudan and Afghanistan in retaliation for the bombing of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Mr Fuller writes ("Airstrikes aren't the Endgame," Los Angeles Times, August 24, 1998), "It is dangerous to divorce terrorism from politics, yet the US continue to talk about an abstract war against terrorism without mention of the issues or context that lie behind them." Mr Reese writes ("Face It: US Foreign Policy Contributes to Acts of Terrorism," Orlando Sentinel, August 18, 1998), "Terrorism is a political act, a response to US foreign policy. It is an act of war waged by people too weak to have a conventional army or one large enough to take on the United States."

Fuller and Reese identify the realities of US foreign policy, Muslim perceptions, and media obfuscation that serve to perpetuate the cycle of violence. Among these are: "US support for almost any ruler (often against the wishes of his people) willing to protect US interests - routinely identified in Washington as oil and Israel" says Fuller. and this support usually comes without meaningful input from American Muslims.

While Muslims are virtually excluded from high-level policy making and media, "Jewish Americans," says Fuller, "occupy nearly every single senior position relating to US Arab-Israeli policy."

Reese says, The one-sided support of Israel, even when Israel is clearly an aggressor or an abuser of human rights, creates enemies. When your wife and children are killed with US weapons wielded by a government backed by the US and protected from UN sanctions by the US, it doesn't sit too well. Reese adds, We slapped sanctions on Sudan allegedly because someone in Washington doesn't like its internal human-rights policies that, you can be sure, are far more humane than China's or those of some of the African dictators we so ardently supported. I suspect the real reason is the current government won't cut a deal on

the oil discovered in Sudan many years ago.

Contrary to what US media tell us, foreign policy doesn't reflect the kind and charitable nature of the average American. **Terrorism has no place in this world.** But distinguishing the freedom fighter from the terrorist is a matter of perspective. And what we call power politics, is merely a euphemism for terrorism of another kind. **We have a choice: an endless war on terrorism, or following the path to a just and lasting peace.** We will have embarked on the path to peace when we routinely include Muslims, of diverse views, in debates at the level that US policy is made.

August 15, 2001 Towards Justice and Peace

The US speaks of democracy, human rights, and free trade, but these are merely slogans to coerce weaker nations to submit to exploitation by the west. The absence of democracy and human rights does not deter US relations with another country, and it is not free trade that the US seeks, but corporate globalisation - the letter tends to eliminate free trade, not foster it.

Indeed, corporate globalisation destroys the very conditions that generations of economists such as Adam Smith have claimed to be essential to an efficient market - a market composed solely of individual buyers and sellers, none large enough to influence the market price, according to development experts such as David C. Korten.

The US speaks of its war on terrorism but it is US intervention in the affairs of other states that provokes retaliation and keeps the dollars flowing to the arms manufacturers.

With some exceptions, the real war is neither a war between different faiths, nor different races. It is a war driven between those driven by greed, and those seeking justice and peace.

When enough people realise that the war on Islam is ultimately a clash of values - greed versus justice, mercy, compassion - we will have moved closer to justice and peace for all.

Please phone: (012) 336-6000 ext. 6425 if you would like a free copy of the book.

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