



"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."



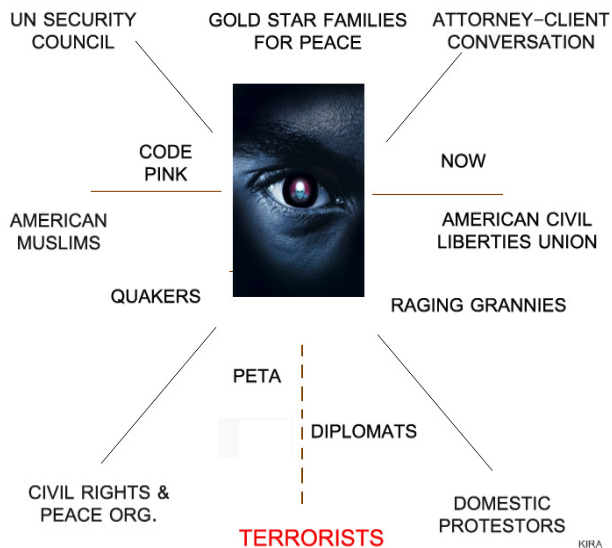
CIVIL RIGHTS WATCH- Lying, Spying, and Torture: What Next?

CCRA Monthly E-Letter
January 1, 2006

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THE FUTURE IS NOW:BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING



Spying fits state post-9/11 pattern

MSNBC releases report that includes six California incidents deemed 'suspicious' by Pentagon



The Argus

December 27, 2005

President Bush's authorizing warrantless wiretaps within the United States grabbed headlines last week, but a pattern of domestic snooping stretches back to California and the weeks after 9/11.

Almost daily, it seems, new revelations emerge about domestic surveillance programs. U.S. News and World Report reported Friday that the government has been secretly monitoring radiation levels at mosques and other private Muslim buildings in six U.S. cities outside California. The New York Times reported Thursday that undercover city police had infiltrated political protest groups in New York City.

A week earlier, NBC News reported the Pentagon had assembled a 400-page database listing "threats" from domestic protesters, including the Quakers.

The document listed 1,500 "suspicious incidents" during 10 months in 2004 and 2005. An eight-page excerpt posted on the MSNBC Web site includes six entries in California, including protests at military recruiting offices at the University of California's Berkeley and Santa Cruz campuses.

That revelation prompted state Sen. Joseph Dunn, a Santa Ana Democrat investigating similar efforts by the California National Guard, to call for a statelaw banning the state military from domestic spying.

PATRIOT ACT UPDATE

"The Senate filibuster on December 16 stopped an unacceptable PATRIOT Act reauthorization bill from becoming law. To prevent 16 provisions from expiring on 12/31/05, Congress extended them for a 5-week period. The Senate returns on January 18, but the House is currently scheduled to return January 31 – just three days before the new expiration date (February 3, 2006). " (BORDC)

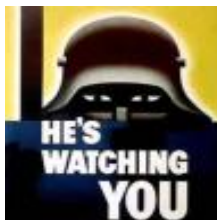


However, this move leaves many wondering that when the Congress resumes its session on January 31, will it really have the time to sift through complicated issues and find ways to balance security and liberty. Leaving a three day window only could cause another rush to judgment.

U.S. citizens among targets of secret spying

Bush approved eavesdropping without usual court warrants

S.F. Chronicle -- Months after the Sept. 11 attacks, President Bush secretly authorized the National Security Agency to eavesdrop on Americans and others inside the United States to search for evidence of terrorist activity without the court- approved warrants ordinarily required for domestic spying, according to government officials.



Under a presidential order signed in 2002, the intelligence agency has monitored the international telephone calls and international e-mail messages of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people inside the United States without warrants over the past three years in an effort to track possible "dirty numbers" linked to al Qaeda, the officials said.

[Full story](#)

NSA Spied on U.N. Diplomats in Push for Invasion of Iraq

by Norman Solomon; December 28, 2005



Despite all the news accounts and punditry since the New York Times published its Dec. 16 bombshell about the National Security Agency's domestic spying, the media coverage has made virtually no mention of the fact that the Bush administration used the NSA to spy on U.N. diplomats in New York before the invasion of Iraq .

Nationally, the military is barred by the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, written in response to federal troops being stationed at Southern voting booths after the Civil War. Dunn suspects the military may be using state National Guards to get around those restrictions.

"We need to close that loophole so that no future adjutant general (the Guard's top general) or governor will be tempted to use the National Guard for domestic spying," Dunn said. "I plan to introduce in the next session a state version of the Posse Comitatus Act."

Dunn's suspicions arose from the creation last spring of the Information Synchronization Center under then-Adjutant General Gen. Thomas Eres. Eres was trying to create an entire domestic intelligence division within the Guard, when news broke that it kept tabs on a Mother's Day antiwar protest by Raging Grannies, Code Pink and Gold Star Families for Peace...

Last summer, his investigators uncovered hundreds of pages of documents, with numerous references to and correspondence with the Pentagon and its post-9/11 domestic intelligence operation at NORTHCOM. At the time, no direct evidence linked Eres' plans to the Pentagon, and Defense Department investigators later found fault with his methods...

"I think we do ourselves a massive disservice keeping tabs on protest groups," Winuk said...

(Ben Wizner, an attorney in the ACLU's national headquarters) added: "We don't have a Congress doing any oversight whatsoever. Congress needs to step up and have hearings about domestic surveillance."

[Full story](#)

Nuclear Monitoring of Muslims Done Without Search Warrants

U.S. News And World Report

In search of a terrorist nuclear bomb, the federal government since 9/11 has run a far-reaching, top secret program to monitor radiation levels at over a hundred Muslim sites in the Washington, D.C., area, including mosques, homes, businesses, and warehouses, plus similar sites in at least five other cities, U.S. News has learned. In numerous cases, the monitoring required investigators to go on to the property under surveillance, although no search warrants or court orders were ever obtained, according to those with knowledge of the program. Some participants were threatened with loss of their jobs when they questioned the legality of the operation, according to these accounts.



[Full story](#)

That spying had nothing to do with protecting the United States from a terrorist attack. The entire purpose of the NSA surveillance was to help the White House gain leverage, by whatever means possible, for a resolution in the U.N. Security Council to green light an invasion.

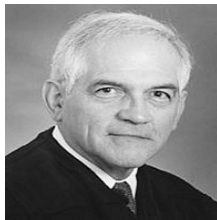
When that surveillance was exposed nearly three years ago, the mainstream U.S. media winked at Bush's illegal use of the NSA for his Iraq invasion agenda.

"As part of its battle to win votes in favor of war against Iraq," the Observer had reported on March 2, 2003, the U.S. government developed an "aggressive surveillance operation, which involves interception of the home and office telephones and the e-mails of U. N. delegates." The smoking gun was "a memorandum written by a top official at the National Security Agency -- the U.S. body which intercepts communications around the world -- and circulated to both senior agents in his organization and to a friendly foreign intelligence agency." The friendly agency was Britain's Government Communications Headquarters.

The NSA memo, dated Jan. 31, 2003, outlined the wide scope of the surveillance activities, seeking any information useful to push a war resolution through the Security Council -- "the whole gamut of information that could give U.S. policymakers an edge in obtaining results favorable to U.S. goals or to head off surprises."

[Full story](#)

US Judge Resigns From Special Security Court



The Bush administration found itself on the defensive again Wednesday over the issue of domestic spying as part of the war on terrorism. A federal judge resigned from a special security court, apparently to protest President Bush's decision to authorize surveillance of Americans suspected of ties to terrorists.

The Washington Post reported that the resignation of federal Judge James Robertson apparently stemmed from concerns over the legality of the president's domestic spying program.

Judge Robertson was one of 11 members of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISA), a special court set up to hear government requests to monitor telephone and e-mail communications of American citizens and others inside the

Torture as Calculated Policy

Counter Punch



...Torture is as old as law itself; it was used in ancient Rome as in medieval Europe, French Algeria, and Northern Ireland, and now still in over 100 countries. It is not surprising that arguments for torture have reappeared in a time of crisis (or perceived crisis) for western countries, when some people instinctively reach for more legal powers, seemingly blind to the history of past emergencies where torture was deemed unnecessary.

Under international law, torture is a war crime, a crime against humanity, and an international crime in itself. Cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment is also forbidden. The prohibition on torture is absolute, and cannot be suspended even in times of public emergency. Despite this formidable legal architecture, since September 11, the use of torture has accelerated around the world. Let me give you some examples:

- * Human Rights Watch reports that at least 9 detainees are known to have died in U.S. custody in Afghanistan, and 4 of these were murder or manslaughter;
- * An internal U.S. Army investigation revealed widespread abuse of detainees in Afghanistan by poorly-trained and inexperienced soldiers, often out of boredom or cruelty, or for the pleasure of humiliating and inflicting pain on those in their power;
- * Another U.S. Army report in 2003 found there were numerous cases of "sadistic, blatant, and wanton criminal abuses" at Abu Ghraib in Iraq
- * The United States has "contracted out" interrogations and torture by informally rendering suspects to less scrupulous governments (such as Syria, Morocco, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt), or to irregular armed forces in failed States (such as the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan). As Human Rights Watch observes, diplomatic assurances supposed to guarantee the treatment of returnees have frequently been found to be ineffective.

[Full story](#)

United States.

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Eavesdropping on Attorney-Client Communications

Law is still in place

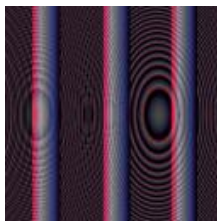
On October 31, 2001, the Attorney General promulgated an amendment to 28 C.F.R. Parts 500 and 501. See 66 Fed. Reg. 55062 (October 31, 2001). The regulation became effective immediately, without the usual opportunity for prior public comment. It allows the Department of Justice, unilaterally, without judicial oversight, and with no meaningful standards, to eavesdrop on the confidential attorney-client conversations of persons in custody whom the Justice Department itself may be seeking to prosecute.



[Full story](#)

CIA secret prisons reports credible: investigator

PARIS (Reuters) - A month-old investigation has reinforced allegations the CIA ran a network of secret prisons in Europe, abducted prisoners and transferred them between countries, a European human rights investigator said on Tuesday.



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Blair persuaded Bush not to bomb Al-Jazeera headquarters: Daily Mirror

LONDON (AP)

A British civil servant has been charged under the Official Secrets Act for allegedly leaking a government memo that, according to a newspaper report Tuesday, suggests Prime Minister Tony Blair persuaded U.S. President George W. Bush not to bomb the Arab satellite TV station Al-Jazeera.



According to the Daily Mirror, Bush spoke of targeting Al-Jazeera's headquarters in Doha, Qatar, when he met Blair at the White House on April 16 last year. The U.S. government has regularly accused Al-Jazeera of being nothing more than a mouthpiece for anti-American sentiments.

[Full story](#)

U.N. Human Rights Chief Warns That Torture Ban Is Becoming Casualty of 'War on Terror'

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS - The U.N. human rights chief warned on Wednesday that the global ban on torture is becoming a casualty of the "war on terror," singling out reported U.S. practices of sending terrorist suspects to other countries and holding prisoners in secret detention.



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