OUR GOVERNMENT IS A TERRORIST

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North Coast Citizen - 11 September 2008
The Daily Astorian - 16 September 2008

Government terrorism against American citizens reached a new height of outrage before and during the Republican National Convention, virtually unreported in our compliant media.

Even before the convention, one family had their "RV" bus confiscated on the freeway by Minneapolis Police, Minnesota State Troopers, Ramsey County Sheriffs, Saint Paul Police, and University of Minnesota Police. The family was left standing, their daughter without shoes, beside their checkens and dogs, homeless on the highway, with no justification given.

The owner said later, "If the combined law enforcement of Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Ramsey County, and the State of Minnesota can pull over and impound a vehicle and home used to teach organic gardening and sustainability, one has to wonder what it is our government really fears. After all, we seek to teach people that the real meaning of homeland security is local food, fuel and energy production. For that we have had our lives stolen by government men with guns."

The British Ekklesia press reports, "In developments which have been largely ignored in the US media, police have staged preemptive armed raids targeting protesters and alternative media around the Republican National Convention - including thousands of people demonstrating about war world poverty throughout the week.

Though up to ten thousand marchers, many veterans of Iraq and past wars, joined peaceful protests on Monday, their cause has gone largely unreported. Meanwhile, baton-wielding police later arrested 250 people, claiming a "riot". But eyewitnesses say they were subject to unprovoked attacks, including pensioners and peace activists. BBC video footage does not show any violence by protestors."

“Protesters here in Minneapolis have been targeted by a series of highly intimidating, sweeping police raids across the city,” Glenn Greenwald wrote for Salon, “involving teams of 25-30 officers in riot gear, with semi-automatic weapons drawn, entering homes of those suspected of planning protests, handcuffing and forcing them to lay on the floor, while law enforcement officers searched the homes, seizing computers, journals, and political pamphlets.

"When you believe in war, sooner or later you bring it home. This is called a police state. The agents of the state, in the name of security, fight words and ideas with guns and teargas."

Robert Koehler, an editor at Tribune Media Services writes, "Members of the New York-based I-Witness Video collective, which had come to St. Paul to document the protests, and whose reputation had preceded them, found the house where they were staying surrounded by armed officers; anyone who tried to leave was detained in handcuffs.

“I-Witness Video was remarkably successful in exposing police misconduct and outright perjury by police during the 2004 RNC,” said co-founder Eileen Clancy. “Out of 1,800

arrests, at least 400 were overturned based solely on video evidence which contradicted sworn statements which were fabricated by police officers."

On Monday, local law enforcement officials arrested independent media reporter Amy Goodman and two producers from her award-winning news program, Democracy Now!, that is syndicated over 500 stations. Also arrested were Associated Press photographer Matt Rourke and several independent videographers. At least 19 journalists, including two reporters from the AP, were among those held by police. Other independent journalists have also been pepper-sprayed and held at gunpoint during "pre-emptive" raids aimed at disrupting and intimidating protesters. Cameras were taken and memories erased of images showing illegal police activity, in violation of federal law.

Nancy Doyle Brown of Twin Cities Media Alliance stated, "From the pre-convention raids to the ongoing harassment and arrests of journalists, these have been dark days for press freedom in the United States."

Following the arrests, Free Press, the national media reform organization, circulated a petition demanding that Mayor Coleman and local authorities immediately "free all detained journalists and drop all charges against them" -- garnering more than 50,000 signatures nationwide in less than two days. "How is the press to operate in this kind of environment?" Goodman asked Police Chief John Harrington during one of the city's daily RNC briefings.

J.D. Tuccille, of the Civil Liberties Examiner, reports, "That's not to say that respect for free speech was ever perfect; more than a few politicians have penalized speech they really didn't want to hear in the past -- especially during wartime. But the corralling of demonstrators into "free speech zones" at the two major-party conventions, the preemptive raids to seize people who might be "troublemakers" and the mass arrests make it clear that vigorous political expression -- however annoying -- is now seen as a privilege to be exercised only in the manner and at the location permitted by the powers-that-be."

All this was brought eerily home here on the north Oregon Coast last weekend, as at least five families reported large black unmarked military helicopters circling over their homes prior to a protest of a planned herbicide spraying next to the Care Center in Wheeler that later resulted in at least one person going into convulsions.

Welcome to the Brave New World.