

ON the SIDE

Do As I Say, Not As I Do

The American-led [NATO] coalition said that it had asked the Afghan government to investigate allegations of torture by Afghan Local Police units that have been trained and advised by American Special Operations forces.

—New York Times, January 16, 2013

The Terrible Truth

On January 23, 2012, Khurshid Kasuri, former foreign minister of Pakistan under General Musharraf, admitted handing over Dr. Aafia to the US and expressed his regret. In a twitter message he said: "I'm so sorry for handing over the innocent Dr. Aafia Siddiqui to the Americans. It was my biggest mistake ever. Khurshid Kasuri."

Tellingly, General Musharraf admits in his book (In the Line of Fire, page 237) that his government captured and handed over 369 'al Qaeda militants' to the U.S. He also writes that Pakistanis received 'millions of dollars' as prize money from the CIA for capturing those militants.

—Abdus Sattar Ghazali, chief editor, Journal of America journalofamerica.net

In August 2009, the [U.S.] Justice Department released a long-secret report chronicling abuses inside the Central Intelligence Agency's overseas prisons, showing how interrogators choked a prisoner repeatedly and threatened to kill another detainee's children.

—New York Times "Topics: CIA Interrogations," regarding a report about the Bush years that may or may not be declassified by the Senate in mid-February

This is What Post-Democracy Looks Like

Today, both Pakistan, the country of my origin, and the U.S., my adopted homeland, are in deep turmoil. Yet there is one major, substantial, significant and consequential difference between the two. To paraphrase Prof. Ali Mazrui, one of the most profound thinkers of this age, while Pakistan is a "pre-democratic" country that is slowly transforming itself into a fledgling democracy, the U.S. is fast becoming a "post-democratic" country, a country that is beginning to shed the foundational features of democracy, namely, habeas corpus, due process and equal justice.

— Dr. Agha Saeed, founder/president of the Pakistani American Democratic Forum, December 16, 2012, countercurrents.org

The Ripple Effect

People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that.
—Dorothy Day, American social justice activist

Close Guantanamo and ALL U.S. secret prisons! End the drone wars!

According to UN investigations in 2010 there are more than 27,000 prisoners held by the U.S. in more than 100 secret prisons around the world and on 17 ships as floating prisons. These are almost entirely Muslim prisoners. According to Center for Constitutional Rights 92% of the prisoners held just at Guantanamo are not “Al-Qaeda fighters” by the U.S. government’s own records, and 22 were under 18 years of age when captured.

President Obama had promised to close Guantanamo Prison as one of his first acts as president in 2009. Yesterday it was decided instead to close the office and eliminate the special envoy Daniel Fried whose role was to close the prison at Guantanamo. Daniel Fried’s role will now be to intensify the sanctions on Iran and Syria.

—Sara Flounders’ interview RT News, Jan 29, 2013

Amnesty International Spring Action Guide 2013

Facts and actions to take about Guantanamo & Drones amnestyusa.org/security