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US spy regime cheating public

By Harry J. Bentham

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When receiving the Sam Adams Award recently, whistleblower Edward Snowden reaffirmed that the US spy regime is nothing but a tyranny. For those who still have doubts about the significance of Snowden's disclosures, it is important to listen closely to recent words from Snowden and any other political comments he may later offer in justification of his contributions to freedom and democracy.

The criminal spy regime, Snowden acknowledges, gives immunity to officials who tell lies to the public but will “stop at nothing” to enforce a truly twisted sense of justice that vilifies and punishes people who make sacrifices in the cause of transparency and truth. No-one can trust a known liar. No one can take the risk of trusting the so-called authority of this violent spy regime that makes every effort to bully any heroic behavior while protecting cowardice and a worthless fascist value system that exists to coddle tyrants and extend their lives.

What has been happening as a consequence of the marriage of spy technology and regime unaccountability in the US is a paralyzing loss of legitimacy that no system can survive. To have any claim to be able to administer justice, states cannot profess to believe might is right or that small individuals must be vilified in place of a greater authority simply because the latter has the ability to spread intimidation, torture, death and compliance.

The greatest examples of moral behavior have been found in the work of individuals who suffered for their faith, including religious saints and modern activists like Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, rather than in hideous concentrations of faceless power and impunity like the US spy regime. Snowden is exceptional enough to morally eclipse governments, not simply because of the significance of his actions, but because of his own moral character. That is affirmed in his decision to make sacrifices for what he knew to be true.

The opposite moral extreme of Snowden's behavior is found in the lives of the infamous war criminals Bush and Blair, who cower behind security guards and corrupt elites because they know it isn't worth dying for the worthless lies that will be with them to their very sad graves. It cannot be doubted that lives of cowardice, lying and the shirking of consequences deserve to be loathed by us all as disgusting and unjustifiable.

Some have framed the issue of the NSA spying scandal as illustrating a dilemma between privacy and security, but this swallows the propaganda poison assuming the spy regime is living in a time of emergency. Every fascist regime has always pushed people to have this assumption. Attempting to push the situation to a "state of emergency" of sorts, with talk of security, is evidence that the spy regime is only concerned about justifying totalitarian excesses and depicting everyone as an intolerable threat to itself.

Talk of security means the US spy regime is desperately trying to mend its image in the wake of the spying revelations, by suggesting the spy regime is really a "sheep in wolf's clothing" and ought to be trusted yet again. The truth, however, is clear: it is the wool that has been removed from our eyes by Snowden, and the wolf behind that wool is very conspicuous.

What is threatening the security of the public is the unjustifiable policy in regions like the Middle East that has never been adequately explained to the public, and gets Western states involved in wars that are not their concern. Taking the public for sheep, and consistently making policy against their interests with no adequate justification, the spy regime and its allies cannot possibly have any democratic credentials left.

Top actions of existential importance to the Western public, such as going to war or violating rights, are taken by rulers without any consideration of what the public actually finds to be conscionable. Decisions are made by cabals who are convinced that the public are too sheepish to understand what is in their own interests, and these cabals believe it is their right as democratic "representatives" to risk their constituents' lives in unconscionable wars and reckless flirtations with terrorism that they would never risk their own lives for.

The best description of what Snowden discovered is a tyranny. Aristototele considered a tyranny to be a regime in which the laws are made to protect the interests of the people making those laws,

rather than protecting the public. In a system where the law protects lying officials and persecutes people who make conscientious choices to speak the truth, we ought to have little doubt that the label of tyranny applies.

The US spy regime has lost any democratic justification because it has violated the trust of the people it claimed to protect. By supervising populations both domestic and abroad in a truly patronizing and tyrannical fashion, the spy regime proved that it is no real democracy and uses that word only to cynically offer power to self-indulgent tyrants who cheated their way into supposedly representing people. The only reason a domestic spy program's existence would be kept unknown to the public is to violate the trust of the public, escape any need to ask for consent, and avoid having to face the victims.

The top threat to the public of the Western world is the increasing concentration of evil at the hearts of governments. They are the forces of tyranny, intolerance and the forcing of innocent people against their will. These three are strongly evident in the crimes of the spy regime.

It is more and more apparent that the US regime and its allies have no principles worth defending, and simply hide behind their technology to brutalize their opponents. No satisfactory justification for the violation of the trust of the public and their privacy has been given, and it is certain that anything less than the death of the spy regime is unacceptable to democracy.

The once-powerful myth of the US fighting against tyranny around the world is no longer believable. Global tyranny and evil are concentrated in the US spy regime, in its lack of concern for the security of its own public or the freedom of the world.