

Summary

of an open letter to the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Defence, Senators and Members of the Australian Parliament

a) There is a grave lack of truth.

The people of Australia and other Western nations have been/are subjected to false or deceptive statements and claims, by their political leaders, in various ways. Why? This has also led to the destruction of other societies, the death of millions of people, ongoing mutilation, suffering and warfare. 2.3 million Iraqi deaths by 2009, 4.5 million Afghan deaths by 2010, were estimated as a result of war, by Dr Gideon Polya. The costs of warfare are borne by Western taxpayers and can only serve the financial interests of a small group of powerful entities. Confusion, fear, hatred and divisiveness have intensified. Whose interests are our governments serving?

These concerns must be addressed.

b) The US and other Western governments or their agencies, have, over many decades, both covertly and overtly, intervened in the socio-political context of the Middle East, including the sponsoring of terrorist groups or mercenaries, and more recent unprovoked invasion with resulting devastation in the Middle East. This has created the extremely broken societal conditions in which extreme groups, including ISIS, readily arise.

c) The United States government undertook unprovoked invasion of Iraq in 2003, on the basis of conscious deception. Our government chose to support illegal invasion, against the wishes of the majority of the Australian people. There have also been other U.S government deceptions, eg. that Iran had nuclear weapons, that Russia annexed Crimea. We therefore cannot accept any official claims made by the US government, its agencies or news media, on any issues, especially with regards to international events, unless we have independently and thoroughly investigated the validity of any claim, from all sources possible. This could also apply to claims made by other allied governments. We cannot simply assume that Western governments will speak the truth, and that non-Western governments might not. We need to give a fair hearing to all. This would then apply to the unfolding chaos of the Middle East since 2003.

Our intelligence agencies, advisory bodies and institutes should be publicly-

funded, and enabled in their capacity to be independent and open-minded in information gathering.

- d) Evidence shows that by early 2001, there were US intentions to cause war in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria and other areas. Since September 14 2001, one person has been authorized to use any force against persons, organisations, nations, without the need of oversight, consultation, judicial hearing, accountability. This authoritarian power is in the hands of the US President, and is antipathetical to the core values of democracy, justice, human rights, and accountability. Prior to 2001, illegal activities of US based secret services were exposed to some degree. This new Presidential power has enabled unprecedented freedom and expanding operations of secret military units or private security contractors. We can no longer regard the US government as a representative of open, law-abiding democracy, in the international sphere.
- e) A long inquiry is not essential to demonstrate the reality of c) and d). This reality demands that we reflect deeply on our own values, and what we wish to uphold in Australia and in our international relationships. Authoritarianism is in our midst, as well as the exertion of arbitrary power on other persons, nations through secretive or overt means. This makes it very difficult to identify the causes of tensions or conflict that have arisen or may arise in societies. We need to free ourselves of the false assumption of superiority over other non-Western countries, with respect to human rights, in international relations. The devastation of Iraq, as one example, demonstrates that. Therefore, Australia's alliances need to be reconsidered. The Australian government should communicate to the US government, our concern regarding the Authoritarian power of the US Presidency.
- f) War and conflict is unfolding with no exit-strategy. If we are to have any peace in the future, Australia needs urgently to stand independently, with a major focus on establishing relations of peace and positive interaction with all nations, accepting and understanding differences, being open to critique and giving critique, using all means of negotiation and mediation to resolve areas of conflict, or questions of human rights violations, but if necessary, have the courage to apply sanctions, as a last resort. Illegal armed intervention in other nations must be excluded.
- g) Australia should work to enable

- i) The withdrawal of Australian and other forces and the movement of armaments in support of continued warfare.
 - ii) The facilitation whereby the peoples of the Middle East may together form their own destiny and delineations in a just manner, through negotiation. Their control and determination of use of their natural resources should be included in this. The right of Palestinians to a viable state should be included in this process.
- h) For the sake of historical truth and accountability a public inquiry into Australia's involvement in the Middle East since 2003 is needed. The Palezzo Report also strongly indicates that.
- i) There is especially a need for an independent, public inquiry into methods to enable renewal of the political system, in order to more truly serve the needs of the whole community.

Note on the rules of war

According to International Law, as codified in the U.N Charter, disputes should be brought to the U.N Security Council, which alone may legally authorize the use of force, unless one's nation is subjected to an armed attack by another nation. Then one may respond in self-defence, or when there is certain knowledge that an armed attack by another nation is imminent, leaving no time for the matter to be brought to the Security Council.

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Australian Citizen
and member of the global community.
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