

NEWSLETTER #2 ON KILLING OSAMA BIN LADEN

Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace, May 8, 2011

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“My Reaction to Osama bin Laden's Death” By Noam Chomsky, Reader Supported News 07 May 11

We might ask ourselves how we would be reacting if Iraqi commandos landed at George W. Bush's compound, assassinated him, and dumped his body in the Atlantic.

t's increasingly clear that the operation was a planned assassination, multiply violating elementary norms of international law. There appears to have been no attempt to apprehend the unarmed victim, as presumably could have been done by 80 commandos facing virtually no opposition - except, they claim, from his wife, who lunged towards them. In societies that profess some respect for law, suspects are apprehended and brought to fair trial. I stress "suspects." In April 2002, the head of the FBI, Robert Mueller, informed the press that after the most intensive investigation in history, the FBI could say no more than that it "believed" that the plot was hatched in Afghanistan, though implemented in the UAE

and Germany. What they only believed in April 2002, they obviously didn't know 8 months earlier, when Washington dismissed tentative offers by the Taliban (how serious, we do not know, because they were instantly dismissed) to extradite bin Laden if they were presented with evidence - which, as we soon learned, Washington didn't have. Thus Obama was simply lying when he said, in his White House statement, that "we quickly learned that the 9/11 attacks were carried out by al Qaeda."

Nothing serious has been provided since. There is much talk of bin Laden's "confession," but that is rather like my confession that I won the Boston Marathon. He boasted of what he regarded as a great achievement.

There is also much media discussion of Washington's anger that Pakistan didn't turn over bin Laden, though surely elements of the military and security forces were aware of his presence in Abbottabad. Less is said about Pakistani anger that the US invaded their territory to carry out a political assassination. Anti-American fervor is already very high in Pakistan, and these events are likely to exacerbate it. The decision to dump the body at sea is already, predictably, provoking both anger and skepticism in much of the Muslim world.

We might ask ourselves how we would be reacting if Iraqi commandos landed at George W. Bush's compound, assassinated him, and dumped his body in the Atlantic. Uncontroversially, his crimes vastly exceed bin Laden's, and he is not a "suspect" but uncontroversially the "decider" who gave the orders to commit the "supreme international crime differing only from other war crimes in that it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole" (quoting the Nuremberg Tribunal) for which Nazi criminals were hanged: the hundreds of thousands of deaths, millions of refugees, destruction of much of the country, the bitter sectarian conflict that has now spread to the rest of the region.

There's more to say about [Cuban airline bomber Orlando] Bosch, who just died peacefully in Florida, including reference to the "Bush doctrine" that societies that harbor terrorists are as guilty as the terrorists themselves and should be treated accordingly. No one seemed to notice that Bush was calling for invasion and destruction of the US and murder of its criminal president.

Same with the name, Operation Geronimo. The imperial mentality is so profound, throughout western society, that no one can perceive that they are glorifying bin Laden by identifying him with courageous resistance against genocidal invaders. It's like naming our murder weapons after victims of our crimes: Apache, Tomahawk ... It's as if the Luftwaffe were to call its fighter planes "Jew" and "Gypsy."

There is much more to say, but even the most obvious and elementary facts should provide us with a good deal to think about.

Radley Balko, The Agitator

Radley Balko writes: "Yes, Bin Laden the man is dead. But he achieved all he set out to achieve, and a hell of a lot more. He forever changed who we are as a country, and for the worse. Mostly because we let him. That isn't something a special ops team can fix."

READ MORE <http://readersupportednews.org/off-site-opinion-section/133-133/5823-osama-bin-laden-won>

“The Torture Apologists,” *The New York Times*, Editorial

The New York Times: "The killing of Osama bin Laden provoked a host of reactions from Americans: celebration, triumph, relief, closure and renewed grief. One reaction, however, was both cynical and disturbing: crowing by the apologists and practitioners of torture that Bin Laden's death vindicated their immoral and illegal behavior after the Sept. 11 attacks."

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<http://www.readersupportednews.org/opinion2/287-124/5836-the-torture-apologists>

On the Road to Peace from NCRonline.org

“Revenge is not the way” May 3, 2011

By John Dear

I had just finished a weekend retreat on the Sermon on the Mount in Los Angeles when I heard the news that the U.S. had killed Osama bin Laden. Unlike the president, the U.S. military, and the hundreds who cheered and waved flags, I did not celebrate. I do not support or cheer the killing of anyone. As a Christian, I am not allowed to retaliate, seek revenge or to kill. I'm supposed to love enemies, do good to those who hate, and bless those who persecute. This news only leads me further into grief, prayer and repentance.

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<http://ncronline.org/node/24433>

FROM IVAW

Dear James ,

“Osama Bin Laden is Dead, What Next?”

May 3, 2011, New York City

Sunday night IVAW learned with the rest of the nation that Osama Bin Laden was killed and his body captured by a team of U.S. Special Forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan. In light of our resolution condemning the occupation of Afghanistan adopted in 2009, we have followed this important news closely and want to share our perspective with supporters, elected officials, policymakers, the press, and the public at large.

Like many other Americans, IVAW welcomes the news of this weakening blow to Al-Qaeda and its threat to our nation and the world. Our hearts go out to the thousands of survivors and family members of victims of the 9/11 attacks as they search for closure in this event.

As service members and veterans who have experienced the Global War on Terror firsthand, we respectfully encourage the American people to consider the killing of Bin Laden with a measure of restraint. His death is only a symbolic victory. Although there is no doubt Osama Bin Laden was responsible for the deaths of thousands of civilians, the path chosen by the Bush administration following 9/11 and continued under President Obama’s watch has cost us more than any one terrorist mastermind ever could. While it is right to remember those who died on 9/11, we should also be equally mindful of all those who have died as a result of our misguided wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The number of U.S. troops killed has topped 6,000 and estimates of civilian deaths in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan range in the hundreds of thousands.

The elimination of Bin Laden proves that our nation’s security issues are managed more effectively through political diplomacy and small, targeted attacks than costly mass military action. Our government has spared no expense in carrying out operations with no clear objectives or an end in sight, squandering trillions of dollars in spite of our nation’s economic crisis.

Any citizen who is serious about the consequences of our foreign policy, the rule of law, or a true sense of justice needs to ask, has it been worth it? Whether you measure the tremendous costs of these wars in human lives or dollars, our position is that it has not been worth it.

The president claims that, “we can say that justice has been done.” But achieving real justice will not happen until the U.S. has removed all occupying forces and returned the right of self-determination to the people of Afghanistan and Iraq. The Obama administration now has an opportunity to bring our troops home and scale back our military commitments overseas. Americans must reflect on the injustice of our own actions through violating international law, committing torture, suspending habeas corpus, and not holding our own leaders accountable.

Clearly our attempts to solve all our problems militarily have not worked. It is our sincere hope that President Obama will not conduct business as usual. While the president and his advisors will seek to capitalize politically on Bin Laden’s killing, it remains to be seen whether our foreign policy will change to reflect these new developments. Having removed Bin Laden from the equation, President Obama has lost a major source of rationalization for our continued occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq. We reject any plans to extend our commitments elsewhere and want to see a hastening of the time line for withdrawal.

Share the statement with members of your community here.

In Solidarity, Jose Vasquez, Executive Director, IVAW

“Michael Moore Interview: The Death of Osama bin Laden” Michael Moore, Piers Morgan Tonight

"A senior White House official has admitted that it was their intention to kill him. It wasn't a dead or alive situation, it was to go and kill him.... As we know, President Bush shut down the CIA station that was set up

for the express purpose of finding bin Laden. He didn't even care about finding him anymore."

READ MORE <http://www.readersupportednews.org/off-site-opinion-section/55-55/5849-michael-moore-interview-the-death-of-osama-bin-laden>

9/11: WE HAD AN ALTERNATIVE TO VENGEANCE AND
INVASION

September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, also known as **9/11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows** or simply **Peaceful Tomorrows**, is an [anti-war](#) organization for survivors of the [September 11, 2001 attacks](#) and friends and family members of the victims.

It aims to develop and advocate [nonviolent](#) options and actions in the pursuit of justice, in the hope that this will help break what the members see as the cycles of violence engendered by [war](#) and [terrorism](#).

Peaceful Tomorrows was launched on February 14, 2002, at a press conference at the [United Nations headquarters](#) by Colleen Kelly^[1] and other members of families that had lost members in the 9/11 attacks who did not want their grief to justify attacks such as the [American](#) bombing campaign in [Afghanistan](#), and to ensure that these actions were not be done in their names and the names of their loved ones.

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The International Network for Peace

The [International Network for Peace](#) is a project that grew out of Peaceful Tomorrows' groundbreaking international conference "[Civilian Casualties, Civilian Solutions](#)" which took place on September 11, 2006, the five-year anniversary of 9/11.

In the weeks following, September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows brought conference participants to speak at several public events at American universities.

See also

- [Amber Amundson](#)

External links

- [9/11 Families Unite to Launch Peaceful Tomorrows](#) Press release
- [About us](#), self description
- [September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows](#), [Znet](#), May 7, 2002
- [peacemtomorrows.org](#) Organisation website
- [International Network for Peace](#)
- [Americans Question 'Terror' War](#), Kelly Campbell from Peaceful tomorrows speaks to Angus Stickler

9/11 Families React to Death of bin Laden

September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows

May 3rd, 2011

<http://www.uslaboragainstwar.org/article.php?id=24089>

September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows

www.peacemtomorrows.org

Contact: Shonna Carter or David Lerner, Riptide Communications 212-260-5000

Talat Hamdani, Peaceful Tomorrows, 631-655-8781

9/11 Victims' Family Members React to the Killing of Osama Bin Laden

Family Members Available for Comment

New York May 2, 2011, -- In the wake of the official announcement that Osama Bin Laden, self-professed leader of Al Qaeda has been killed, September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows released the following statement:

As we consider the killing of Osama Bin Laden, our thoughts turn not only to our family members who were killed on September 11th, but to all of the innocent people around the world who have died, and continue to die, as a result of the events of September 11th, 2001.

It is our hope that the rule of law, underpinned by our Constitution that was so terribly strained in the name of September 11th will again become the guiding light of our policies at home and abroad. One person may have played a central role in the September 11th attacks, but all of us have a role to play in returning our world to a place of peace, hope and new possibilities. We hope that process will begin today.

September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows is an organization founded by family members of those killed on September 11, 2001. Currently comprised of over 200 families, the group advocates nonviolence and adherence to the rule of law in the pursuit of justice and accountability.

END OF OSAMA NEWSLETTER #2