

## Winning the “Fight” Against Terror, Global Terror

Or. For those who wish to be “tough on terror”.

(You may also wish to look at the end of my personal 9/11 story. There is listed, in their own words, several world leaders immediate response and prescient answers to that event. They display the needed wisdom available to us then, and now still. The 1983 and '93 books, the documentary, the “Letter” and other works on this site offer more detail and in-depth discussion of this topic. )

This time of challenge could actually be the very opportunity to move us forward toward our greatest of human achievements yet. The opposite of Armageddon, if this crisis mobilizes us to do the right thing, humanity will shine like never before. It is here before us and we can do it, together.

Addressing terrorist acts successfully require at the very onset, these basic tenets (which Great Britain clearly exemplified to us after their bombing):

1. Good basic police work. (They did not employ rhetoric, nor marching armies. They got right to work.) Terrorism needs good investigation as to who is doing what, when, where. You gather all intelligence and apprehend those involved.
2. An international team connecting the flow of money, the material supplies, (all logistical support) and the guiding ideals and directives (the Why). You get going on all this immediately. Britain also did what we were to do as to the “why”. To best address the underlying cause, they gathered the community leaders and developed action plans for both understanding and prevention. They listened, and got communities involved in an ongoing process.

Another simple outline:

1. Team
2. Problem solving. (Check any of the many hundreds of books and papers on these clear guides and processes, from business management to political diplomacy to our personal relationships.)
3. Direct, specific action, with followup, review and accountability.

These basics are how we fight terrorism upfront, directly, efficiently. It is, and has been the way.

Another redundancy outline (not necessarily in order):

1. Define
2. Team (continually build trust)

3. Intelligence (share real info)
4. Listen to what is going on with hearts and minds.
5. Diplomacy.
6. Covert operations, and only as needed.
7. Trace the flow and source of the economics (the money), the materials, the message.
8. Education (not rhetoric and propaganda)
9. "Prove them wrong." Answer the call with example, with real deeds. If we care, it's tangible.
10. A content people is our best defense (and offense).
11. Learn to share, not grab, resources. Cooperation on all levels.
12. International law. Identify and strengthen it at every chance we can get.
13. Leaders to be held responsible and accountable for their actions.
14. Honest Review. Begin again and again.

### **Going deeper:**

To get at the full spectrum of terrorism (the root and cause of the acts, the symptoms) do we not need to go deeper? I've had the questions over the decades, and the interesting thing to me is, when speaking to people on all levels around the world, they, we, you know the answers. We know what to do. We always have. Many of us get stuck in the rhetoric of our party line or ideology, but opening oneself just beyond that, I've found we know exactly what we have to do, together.

The good news is much of our severe challenge today can be greatly lessened, and the damage is largely preventable. The rise of "terrorism", and the energy behind it can be wholly turned around, and greatly transformed for the greater good of all. To do this we have to get a common understanding of what is really happening. The questions are, Do we care? We do. Can we work together? I know we can. What is especially satisfying is that even many children and young teens around the world get this and can write perhaps more eloquently than I about it.

## **If we are to “win”, and we can, what are the paths? Or, how to take the wind out of terror’s sail?**

Trust.

Perhaps a misused and amorphous word to many, but is trust not a key to denude terrorism? We know trust when we feel it. We know when we are being included, or excluded. Ask anyone who has a successful team, is it possible to have that team without it? We unfortunately have all had to re-learn to be wary of the words, and those who say “Trust me”. Each and every action moves toward re-building that needed trust or moving away from it. You know this.

Team.

Is it possible to make a dent in “global terror” without International Cooperation in locating and dealing immediately with all suspects involved with this “terror”? Cooperation of world banking in tracking the money flow? Cooperation with tracking of “logistical support”, weapon sales, flow of arms and materials, especially exposure of black market sales? Is the necessary regional security possible without genuine Cooperation? Can any of this happen unless people naturally trust you, me, and unless we built and deserve that trust, action by action, truth by truth? See, you know this.

It’s not the mere word team, for don’t all corporations now have the word boldly etched in their mission statements, and from a workers standpoint, how many exemplify this? It means each is valued and included in the process. If you’ve played or worked on a great team you know the transformative power of what can be accomplished. In sports can a single most gifted player without teamwork ever win against a good team? There is nothing like genuine and respectful, active teamwork, and this will remain our only hope in global terrorism.

Define terrorism.

The word terrorist was first used in the French Revolution and actually referred to the RULERS of the Reign of Terror, not the dissidents in the streets. 99.9% of us easily agree that the indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians is unacceptable human behavior, but aside from that, have we clarified and established an International definition of “terror” along with it’s the various types and levels, from the level of an individual, to state, to international corporations?

Ask any good manager, professor, scientist, or ditch digger, is it possible to focus on and plan clearly for any challenge without first defining what we're looking for or attempting to do? Wouldn't defining "terror" on all its levels, help us focus and plan clearly on what we're up against, and what steps to take? Why do you think we haven't done that? Have governments and terrorist groups alike all used the same term, terrorism, as they wish, and to fit their own often hidden agendas? Do we understand why all the people our government calls terrorist call our governments terrorist? Same term, same meaning? Can we do better than seeing who calls each other this name the loudest, or who's list of "terror" justifications is longer? Can attempt a universal definition? Or do we succumb to reversing civilization to "might is right" yet again?

Another word, "enemies" has also been propagated back and forth over the divides, each side using strikingly similar descriptions for "enemy".

Do we have to play the other's game? Can we put aside their not wanting to clarify and fully define this?

The causes of terror are left adrift as we misuse and co-opt these words, made even more complicated with obscured reasoning. We all have dictionaries. We know how to clean a table off. We can do this.

Make progress in the "good".

There's an important ancient adage: Not to fight evil with evil. The means do matter. What happens when we supply oxygen, fire, or in this case, put oil on fire? We may need to stop a tank with a tank but what's behind our tank?

The ancient philosopher Spinoza takes us further, instructing us to keep refocussing on making progress in the good. He states the destructive, or negative emotion, action, pattern of behavior can only be transformed by refocussing and building something stronger. When we refocus on an positive emotion, action, or pattern behavior, it eventually becomes more powerful and dominant over the other. Spinoza instructs it does not work to just say "no". Developing a stronger "yes" to something else does. This strengthened "yes", weakens and makes the "bad", the negative, increasingly irrelevant. It withers. We chose the positive action only because we naturally then want that more. Could we also call this, education?

Isn't this where we have choice in life? We usually don't have choice on what befalls us, but don't we have choice as to what we do with it, choice of our reaction?

Most can and do get behind a truly "good and just war", but that war is a very rare event. In this Iraq case there are plenty of good individuals doing good works with good intentions, believing in good government and offering the ultimate, their very precious lives for others. No higher calling. But in most cases, generally, and what can be

largely witnessed today, is not war lawless, ill-defined, non specific, tremendously wasteful, tragic and indiscriminately terrifying?

So, Spinoza helps us understand that we fight evil (“terrorism” we’ll say) most effectively by making tangible progress in what is “good”. Doing good transforms the “enemy”. It educates us all. It takes terror’s fuel away. It weakens it. The “enemies” base erodes, because don’t people know and gravitate toward what is far greater than brutal force and slaughter of innocents? As much as we may fear brutal force, we know a better life to live in.

“Prove them wrong”

Isn’t this diplomat making the most sense when he simply and clearly exclaims: “We have to prove them wrong!” Don’t we have to show and prove to the world that these things are true?: We care more about others. We Listen to others better. We can help create good Jobs from which to earn a living. We show we have better “morality” and hold the “high ground” because the laws we have are fair and upheld, and all are held accountable? Because here outright greed is held in check, and we don’t believe in allowing starvation, or torture, or poverty, or murder, or outright corruption, or sales of destructive nuclear material. Don’t we prove them wrong when we do the work of providing a wholesome respectful education? When we build schools and educate people about the responsibilities involved in civilization, as well as forward the great progress of scientific knowledge? When we work harder for the greater good? We recognize, respect, and embrace, the strength that comes with all cultures together? Don’t we know this strength because we are peoples who came here from the beginning of this land who were willing to struggle with and learn what it takes to stem the tides of hatred, prejudice, and tyranny, to “get along” with strangers, a continual process of educating and re-educating ourselves? Is this not our greatest strength? Terrorism is dead in the water in this light of day.

Resources

Is not the acquisition and control of our resources (oil, gas, water, all essential raw materials) a much needed and vital separate world forum to gather? Can we be much more mature, grow up, and remember what we were taught in kindergarden: how to share? Is this not at the root of the power struggles today, and hence, terrorism? We know this.

For us and these corporations in Iraq, yes, this could mean taking the loss. Would sooner be better, since we may eventually, or will these corporations run us dry supporting outsourced companies and mercenary armies? Is it not our billions of tax dollars which are funding and insuring the international corporations vast profit in the name of our security? Don’t we then pay twice when we go to the pump? Did we

think, or the corporations assume that the hundreds of billions of our moneys prematurely spent on the oil works, and the building of the largest embassy in the world guarantee our right to Iraqi oil? Not to mention that which is far beyond measure, the lives lost?

The same goes with all the other nations and great powers and their corporations competing for the same. Wouldn't you like to witness in our lifetime the meeting of this test of civilization? As Rodney King pleaded, Can't we all get along? Doesn't it come down to those basic tenets of cooperation, of returning to what our mothers first taught us as children, and re-learning to share? Won't this need to apply to tiny wealthy resource rich nations as much as the largest powers, and International Corporations? Are we to continue to pledge allegiance to corporate goals of profit, or right or wrong national actions? Or pledge to growing ever toward basic shared law for the greater good? We know how to share our meals, our tables. We'll know how to share these resources.

## Population

Isn't population growth, and the flow of the worlds growing population (migration patterns) towards livelihood, jobs, and survival another vital forum to gather seriously around? Can we have give and take here? How long can the earth support a tenet of any religion, culture, people or ideology that supports unrestrained population growth? Pump out as many as you can, it's your God given duty and right? Do we think God maybe also caring now about the greatest good for all? Is His thinking perhaps a bit more flexible than words we wrote down thousands of years ago? Population tied with our resources, are a part of the vortex for the resolution of the tensions, competition, divisions and suffering that support terrorism. We can do this.

## Revenge

Could we give some thought again to the ancient adage "If you want revenge, dig two graves."? Blood letting, revenge, seems to answer our immediate emotion, but over the years did it, and does it not continually devour itself, us, in the process? Is not the best revenge making good in our lives? Remember, an "enemy" wanted you destroyed, not content with a good life.

We've heard it now many times: "You negotiate with your enemies, not you friends." Does hearing it again hurt us? Does it say be soft on "enemies"? What makes the switch happen? For those who've been through this, is it not an art to persuade, and mostly hard work? Wasn't it amazing to finally find that path that naturally compels another to see another way that turned out good for both of you?

Abraham Lincoln said, “The best way to destroy your enemies, is to make friends of them.” Make friends? Is that really woosy? Separate the problem from the people? We eventually did with Germany, Japan, and Russia, all once great murderous “enemies” who aggrieved us and the world greatly. Yes, we also gathered for “the good war”. It wasn’t hard to motivate people for that.

Perhaps a moment of Buddha’s wisdom: When there is harm done to us, it is harm, and it has been done. But the Buddha taught that afterwards, are we not responsible for our reaction? Are we not responsible for repeating and thereby magnifying that harm of the past in our current mindset. He showed us a path to observe that unproductive process. He offered a choice between letting our minds continually expand on that same pain and damage, in a way, continue to hurt ourselves, or to free ourselves from that habit pattern. Feel it. Breathe. Return to the present.

## Forgiveness

How important is forgiveness? If you’ve ever been forgiven, or if you haven’t been forgiven, you can answer this. It is not forgetting (although that’s not always bad). I don’t know how to get to forgiveness nor am I always capable, but I know that, sharing, sincerity, truthfulness, broadening my view of the issue has helped. In studying the long histories of the breaking of terror’s cycles, someone began here, over and over again. Thank you to those people.

## International Law

Need we mention the obvious again? Without agreed upon behavior and basic law, what kind of world could hope to be free of terror? It can’t.

“Laws are silent in time of war.”

Cicero 106-43 BC

Is not the result of humanity struggling throughout history to triumph over tyranny, called civilization? Is not civilization a body of conscious and unconscious norms, or spoken and unspoken laws? In today’s ever smaller one world can those “norms” be morphed toward some basic agreed upon “International law”? With human nature isn’t this an ongoing struggle? As each newborn enters this life, is it not an essential ongoing part of our shared continual education? Is this a natural instinct most young mothers anywhere in the world begin to teach their children? Each time “International law” is violated does it support or lend resistance for others to do the same? And each time it’s upheld? We know.

## Non-Interference

Tragically, “Non-interference” often is the greatest interference with International Law.

On the surface this term sounds good and sounds like something we all can agree on. (Don't we all like the idea of no one entering, dictating, or interfering with what goes on our personal life, or in our home?) But have we studied the use, or consequences of these words when applied to humanity, or to largely hidden events in life? Did we notice the clear connection of this to allowing and being the backdrop of the world's genocides and large scale human tragedies? Has the term non-interference been mostly used by and for state sponsored terror, government sponsored terror, often in-conjunction with misplaced calls for security? Although we all have been guilty of using “non-interference” when it suits us, what single government has been it's top proponent around the world, in it's official international forums, with their officials repeating these words far more than anyone else? China perhaps? Should we wonder why? Don't take my word for it. Can we win hearts and minds, reassure and persuade others to return to serious discussion of international law, and better define this term and it's use under the law? We can.

## Accountability

Does any law mean much unless there is some form of accountability? Does accountability apply for big powers, or just little folks? Presently for large powers there is only some form of peer pressure (that pressure can be for good or bad). Is accountability not intimately intertwined with International law? Do we need to also agree upon some real, tangible form of accountability once we have agreed law? Is this a very challenging idea? Yes. Is it new? Not close. Can we someday not far off put all on notice that there are terms of international law and there will be consequences. And that there will be full, and fair professional investigation, and open trials of all? (Why should only small fry terrorists be held accountable?) Is accountability not again part of life 101, taught to us from the beginning? Part of our core family values? We know this.

## Nuclear material.

One specific. Is nuclear material not worth singling out? (biological and chemical material can tag onto this) Why listen to anyone proclaiming this is a new threat? Albert Einstein warned over 60 years ago that “Nuclear power changed everything, save our modes of thinking. Thus we drift into unparalleled catastrophe.” He and many thousands worked hard to change “our modes of thinking” and in the 1980's the world finally began the hard earned process of beginning to turn this danger around. Can we renew this spirit?



Can we not begin immediately to reinforce strict and transparent control and accountability of all nuclear material at their source? I know we'll need all the previous points above to do it. We know we can do that with the sincere leadership.

Nuclear deterrence? How did the Soviet Union and the US end their long, disastrous Cold War, and back down on the threat of total global destruction? By War? No. By nuclear deterrence? Not by itself, and not alone. The Reagan administration enjoyed taking credit for the ending of the Cold War, but there were decades preceding him of determined individual civilians struggling, exchanging, and building bridges, and professional groups of artists, activists, teachers, farmers, business people, scientists.... all paving the way and laying the human groundwork to make it possible. We worked hard to get the nuclear problem under control. At this writing our politicians sadly seem to be building up walls again.

The US and former USSR began a good program to start with, but we've let the focus of that drop and a critical relationship with the Russian government has soured. Don't we absolutely need each other? If there is any claim of us having a "new" threat in the world, isn't the lack of trust, team and leadership here the true threat?

Nuclear research may be an essential and vital part of our science, but is renewing our capability to destroy ourselves worth the multiplication? Can we return to the urgency of and the full spectrum of efforts needed to turn this around? We knew this answer, and I think we can recall it now, yes?

I had a dream flash by me this September, 2007 when the Iranian President came to address the United Nations amid the heat of their nuclear controversy. I emailed his embassy to share what I was wishfully hoping to hear before he took the world podium. "Yes, we are developing nuclear weapon materials. (ah, truth) We have every right to. You can not dictate to us. BUT, we will stop all this production, and have completely transparent inspections, if, ...if you all do the same." Now, that would have been daring and wise world leadership. I'm still waiting for such an inspired leader.

## Transparency

Is not transparency one forgotten founding block for the American experiment, American democracy? Isn't it what the world's people admire about us, and yearn for themselves? It's been a struggle from the beginning, but isn't the degree we face this, directly related to the degree of trust, and related to gaining back on what respect and legitimacy we have left around the world? Is the quality of maintaining transparency, being purveyors of truth, the America we thought we were, and continue to wish to project?

When we don't know who is doing what, isn't accountability completely missing? And Exactly who might this help? Is it good for us to not know where the vast amounts

of our tax dollars have gone? How many hidden agendas of others and how many hidden costs will we tolerate before we're told our account is gone?

We've often been told because the enemy is with us, that not knowing is for our good, but what part of that is for our good? From 9/11 onward, why would an administration try to prevent or interfere with every investigation into any of the actions regarding terror and war?

Is there an independent investigation before 9/11, of 9/11 itself, through to the present that have answered your questions beyond the surface? The 9/11 Commission didn't think so, and admits to gaping holes. We know what "raising the bar" means. We've been burned too many times. We know transparency when we see it. We know that being convincing to others relies on actual deeds and merits, and the way to lead in these areas is by example.

Iraq, a Regional Force, without US forces

Can we divert a moment from the general to a specific 800 lb. gorilla on the screen? Why are we in Iraq?

Has any of the "established" links to our terror event that were used to lead us to Iraq been true? Have not far too many innocent civilians dead or maimed well established for themselves that war is more than terrifying?

The world has gathered for the good before. Can a regional force not be gathered that could gain trust and authority to monitor human rights atrocities (war), and to eventually help establish and maintain order? And help Iraq's regulate it's own oil as it deems fair? Will we ever support this regional force? With our tax money, will the US military and our outsourced mercenaries be able to do what they are now doing indefinitely? Did the majority of US taxpayers and citizens vote loud and clear that they do not want this course to continue, and can't afford it if we did? In their vote did they just wish to be discouraging, unpatriotic or simply pessimistic, or might they be awakening to the wisdom from all time about distant occupations?

Did we really think we were going to go uncontested with building the largest base and embassy in the world, walled in in the middle of another country, and that no-bid international corporations using our resources were going to dictate the sale and use of Iraqi oil? Do investors control the world's affairs by demanding to see continued profit in their shares? Do they know what the cost of the profit has been? Or are most just unaware with our investments hidden in general funds.

Do we not need to be accountable to those Iraqi's on the ground who have their lives at risk by working with us? Will we abandon these kind of allies again? If we do anything can it at least be to provide them safe passage until they feel the call or their

land's call for their return? Can this extend to helping the millions of Iraqi refugees return, who fled the chaos and sheer terror of war?

What makes us think the Iraqis and many in the surrounding areas won't draw on an ancient culture, their high level of education and majority belief in a secular Iraq, to guide them through to their own settlement, and their own direction of a regional force? Do we remember our original "enemies", Al Qaeda? Do we think there is more than a handful, if that, of Iraqis that want Al Qaeda running their country?

If the press bothered to show up and report on the hundreds of protests before this war began (they simply did not), they would have seen many a varied background of informed people, and many carrying signs that pleaded in large letters, "No War for Oil!" The writing was on the wall. Accountability?

What is the greatest fear being put to the people in the US? Iraq becoming a terrorist controlled state? In the long run the only way I see Iraq becoming a terrorist state is by us insisting on remaining surrounded in the Green Zone, and having corporate mercenaries protecting corporate control of Iraq's resources.

True, this is the way a number of nations try to maintain control. Do you join me in thinking just maybe the USA was in this struggle of life to be different? That we want to succeed in our great experiment of a government by, of and for the people? That we are anti-terrorists, anti the Rulers of Terror? Can we get back some of our own radical roots?

Job Creation. Transforming Military Complexes.

All tied together. Jobs and livelihood remain the central concern to all I've spoken with, worldwide. Many think this almost alone will answer terrorism. Close.

We understand apprehending those plotting to murder. This is police work. We also can see the need for a most modern and efficient military, because we know the base proclivity to might is right; that it can be a cruel and unfair world; and that there are bully's everywhere in life. Do we have a military to lend protection and support for an environment where it is at least possible to pursue a life that is more fair and just, or is it dominate control in the world? And is security more about the ability to extend the good we can bring to and share with the world, so others will naturally follow?

One after another we see the largest portion of nations budgets dedicated to weapons, which soon request upgrading. I've never been a pacifist. If deadly aggression is left unchecked (non interference), is not the horror of allowing such behavior far greater, and inviting yet more of the same? We need a military, in good, wise civilian leaders hands.

However, beyond this, a huge windfall for the betterment of humanity awaits the leader who can inspire this one thing: Can we sit with all in the military industrial complex, including all outsourced contractors and ask them to begin the process of brainstorming how to retool towards products and projects that serve the needs and upliftment of humanity, along with the basics of security. Have we not learned by history that power maintained by strict control is short sighted, rather than power and security through good alliances, healthy relations? Do roots of terrorism lie in the fields of strict control of power? Yes, and many of us don't wish our fields to become battlefields?

Has not the security we crave indeed often been destroyed and undermined throughout time and again by militaries themselves, led by leaders who just thought they could?

Would inspired leadership not be capable of reviewing the documented results of proliferation and flooding of markets with greater weapons and destructive devices? Would they see propagating a more productive message other than we need to fear each other for a lifetime? In this attempt could we not help motivate the much needed creation of good jobs around the world? What effect might this have on the recruitment of "terrorists"?

The shifts of power are usually due to one's own behavior more than anothers. What remains true with current mindsets is the country with the most money will be able to make the best weapons and destructive devices, gather and well supply the largest armies. By all indications, does that current rise in ability not look like China? Do you think it might take more self restraint and vigilance, the larger the military? Ask Chinese minorities how much restraint was shown. Let's help all return to the positive: Good jobs.

If our creativity is harnessed, do we doubt our ingenuity and ability for industries to figure what and how to re-tool, and still make fair profit? Off the cuff, just a few pet ideas could be: Building more alternative energy sources, and vehicles and transportation of all types, sea, air, and land which use alternative energy. Building vehicles to take our scientists and teachers to space, developing ways to harness the sun's free and unending energy inside or outside the atmosphere for our energy needs. The vast medical research that is needed continually. Creative and affordable housing. Start re-tooling the vast amount of efficient equipment for industry that is regenerative and non polluting of air, water, land. Dealing with our climate crisis, produce enough food, desalinate water, purify our air. Converting our waste to useful products, recycling effectively. Retooling to build new forms of schools, better learning environments, medical and health centers for all.... We can re-tool, refocus, remake a better world.

## Global warming

Global warming may be our saving grace, if we gather seriously around it. This urgent wake up call, 40 years delayed in being heard, is an excellent opportunity area

for our corporations and industries to shift toward and away from the machinery of war. It an excellent excuse and rallying cry. It's real. What has been interesting is the sudden found enthusiasms of Wall Street money managers jumping on the "newly discovered" profit potential for turning "green". Good. Humanity needs to gather for other goals besides fear of each other. This is an immediate, ready made chance to do that. We can all save face, and each other.

### An International Force.

After untold abysmal destruction, this was the key intention for the founding of the United Nations in 1945. The force would be substantially preventive. There would be swift consequences, accountability for anyone who wanted to try to commit such human horror again. Before serious discussion China, former USSR, GB, France, and the US had an early dispute over the control of a force, and with their veto never allowed further talks to get off the ground. Ambassador Zenon Rossides tried to bring it repeatedly and passionately back to the international floors from his first time at the podium in 1960 until his death. Shortly before President Kennedy's assassination they met and had discussed the need for an International Force, and committed personally to continuing the exploration together. That was prevented. Might we not revisit this idea?

What was the idea? Establishing a non standing, flexible, rapid deploying truly international force, suspending involvement of those in the current dispute, a force capable of interrupting and stopping human atrocities, genocides, and one that can cut through the concept of non-interference within established International Law. There would be no spoils of war other than the great satisfaction of having stood for a better world, together. Wasn't that the idea? Isn't it still the idea?

Can citizens continue to nudge our governments to work out these concerns of power sharing and direction? The entire UN needs continual efforts at improving efficiency, waste, corruption, accountability, transparency and focus of mission like all bureaucracies (and all too few have). I prefer to bolster it, but if the UN doesn't work as mandated, we still need to develop and build on the founding concept of such an international body. Is not a global consciousness of one small yet wonderfully diverse world now entrenched throughout? Will strong nationalism and ideologues be able to convince a majority of us otherwise?

### Citizenship. Ownership.

Ownership (not talking about owning a house, but the concept of responsibility) is the very foundation of this precious land. Ownership, active citizenship is empowering. It is life changing and life affirming. It is responsibility in community, and the only thing that can make this a great nation. It has almost disappeared by atrophy for the average person, and has disappeared for the millions of disenfranchised. To again be a shining

example to ourselves and the world, do we need to insure that participatory democracy is returned to the USA? Have we listened to ourselves? Do we hear what the world reflects to us of where our once prized democracy has gone in recent years? They cherished it as well. They had something to point to, and still can.

Do not democracy basics entail trust in our voting process, that the president we elect gets in office, as well as each citizen feeling involved in their governing? (If you ask anyone around the world, do they point to our 2000 and 2004 elections as proof that we no longer have authority to preach to them about the issue of fair voting?) Accept for election year robo calls for donations, on most accounts, citizens barely know that they are citizens, and know not our responsibilities.

Corporate life leaves us little time. It stresses the serving of the corporation. Increasingly, are we being asked what we think, or are we being told what to think? Should our responsible citizenship rest solely in the corporations we work for? Should huge corporate pac money derived solely from our labor, and this undue political influence substitute for our increasingly small individual voices? Should we continue to allow this process of their sponsorships making the vital decisions of our society for us? (Corporations largely control which policies get written, which issues are supported and covered, and which representatives get funding.) Who is being represented when being elected means being well funded by you know whom? While we're at it, how about all the unknown favors in legislation that is piled into huge bills? Shall we mention the completely undemocratic anti citizenship practice of Presidential Signing Statements? Didn't we once rid of the king? Can we measure the distance we've strayed from the founding vision of this country? Can we turn this around? (Again, transparency, accountability, ownership?)

What does democracy, this personal ownership and involved citizenship have to do with terrorism? If only we could listen to those we are calling terrorists, we might get a glimpse into what has attracted most of them to do what they do. Religious fervor doesn't make it alone. Just maybe they we inspired by and hold many of our own disappearing cherished ideals? Let's see.

Economics. Unchecked greed.

What is unchecked greed? How much is enough? I'm not sure. Do we yet understand that capitalism is not democracy? In the ground of terrorism, do we see the smallest relation to and the effects of the possibility that the insatiable drive for profit often leading to corporate malfeasance, corruption, crime and the insidious and unfettered influence of corporate lobbyists in politics has had?

Have you been to China? China is much more capitalistic than the US presently. Much of the world is now. Capitalism is a fantastic idea, when coupled with basic guidelines, with regulation, accountability, transparency, with responsibility to the whole of society, with some counterbalance to outright greed. Increasingly, where is this balance?

Wouldn't it be great if we competed more for who does the greater good for all? Who is the widening gap of rich and poor good for, terrorists, or a secure world? Can we strengthen our backbone, the middle class again?

### Poverty.

In the world of extreme poverty, is terrorism not inherent in daily life? If we don't know, shouldn't we look to see? I can't tell you how often I heard around the globe, that when we show that we are concerned and doing something about poverty, we begin to beat terrorism around the world? If it's echoed so often, perhaps we can reinvigorate a more international dynamic approach?

Could we truly honor one of our greatest Americans (besides getting time off from work) and take MLK Jr. up on his conclusion, that if we want a great world, we need to take on poverty for all peoples? (Once again, most answer, good job creation.)

### Injustice.

Poverty's sibling? If we are seen to be doing something about injustice for all, not just a chosen few, wouldn't terrorism greatly wither? Life is often and will always be unfair, and unjust. That is reality, but won't we hold both a team and the greater humanity together if we are felt to be looking after this interest, OUR interest? If we have to take a side in nation, business, or ideology, would it not be toward justice? It's another constant and daily process and struggle we each face. That struggle is all that is called for, sincerely trying, modest little steps. How can we encourage each other?

### Truth

“When war enters a country,  
It produces lies like sand.”  
(Ancient, Anonymous)

Can we show to the world that we know that truth is an important value, and it is an international value? Can we show that truth may have many sides and perspectives, but a lie tends to be narrowly, a lie? Can we ask in business, and in international diplomacy if there is accountability or reward for lies? Which supports a world of terrorism? In personal relationships, when caught doing a wrong, do we learn there is accountability? What is the worst that can happen if a government is held accountable for

a lie to it's citizens? Isn't it then becoming a stronger democracy, an empowered citizenry?

Is it a valid argument that an administration is not culpable because our representatives voted for "War", if the truth was withheld and lies propagated to these representatives? Does admitting to or supporting a wrong make us weaker, or strengthen our resolve? Would such results regain a respect internationally, few nations in the world can exemplify? Do we have the courage it takes to say we are sorry, and do the best we can from here on out? In this not the best way to honor all those soldiers who have given their lives? Or is continuing the false premise? No life is in vain if we turn this around to raise up the best of humanity.

Can we not honor and redirect the inspiration of their ultimate sacrifice, (and the sacrifice of all those soldiers physically and emotionally injured who now need untold support), by changing the world to a better place? Isn't a better world what motivated many to serve? Didn't most risk their lives believing in the highest cause of protecting the weak and innocent, and our democratic values? As President Lincoln beckoned us, don't we owe it to these fallen and injured to do this remaining good work. Is the great battle not ultimately in our hands, before us?

We have to get to know each other better.

The wisest often offer this counsel. Imagine if we applied this vigorously to our terrorism challenges? Did anyone say it's easy? Could it not only help greatly, but also possibly be immensely enriching for all? Would it not be worth trying even if it only stopped some of the hemorrhaging loss? Imagine us getting to know our enemies? Throughout time, eventually, didn't we? We could ask my friend whose dad was killed on Iwo Jima what he felt while sitting for a meal in the home of a welcoming Japanese soldier who was there, or another who fought and almost died in Veit Nam when he returned to their hospitality recently, or a Jewish friend who just made his first trip to Germany and surprised himself with the warmth he felt. We know.

Learning languages, trade with others along routes from before the Silk Route, to this day, excites, educates and inspires us. What do we experience when sharing meals in homes of different cultures, discovering the diverse and unique customs of humanity's nourishing generosity? We can be so fortunate in each other, teachers and students all.

My first evening in Holland as a young man, I went to pay a bill. The waiter said the old man who just left paid for your meal. He wanted to thank an American. He was in the war, he said. I owe more than that meal to some unknown American 19 yr. old lying in a grave there, but also for the quality of remembrance and gratefulness of this man. I could write a very thick book about the generosity and kindness of "strangers" on my journeys. I could write about people who saved my life, for nothing in return.



To end terrorism, can we not apply the common knowledge that “solutions are inherent in the problems.” If we can apply this, may we not in fact get many answers we seek for terrorism from “terrorists” themselves, and they, from us? Can we begin here again?

Not remaining a victim.

Have you not greatly admired someone who has been through unimaginable hell and loss and then makes good in his life, without blaming or dwelling on the past? When we stand up, and make a positive change for ourselves doesn't it effect all around us? Remaining a victim is understandable but can be very limited (I don't wish to ever “blame the victim” here). I heard a saying that once helped me out of dwelling on my own self pity: “Get off the cross. We need the wood.” Do we need martyrs as much as we need all of us to inspire and encourage each other to stand up for what is right and do what is best for all? What are we doing about terror? Can we at least bring up a wider awareness of what's behind it and how we just might be a tiny part of the larger picture? Can we take any ownership in our challenges?

We have choice.

Are we part of the solutions to what's behind terror, or do we not care, assume powerlessness, and hence reinforce it's ground?

Children.

In all of this this can we just look at, and remember the children? Isn't that what it's about? The strong protectiveness we can feel when with a child, or visiting a suffering child in the hospital? Does not this protectiveness also come out naturally whenever we see the sick, the very vulnerable, the handicapped, injured, aged... Us? This is strong human common ground: The birth, fragility in life, and death of us all. We know.

Palestinian/Israeli settlement

Yes. Whenever talking seriously about the terrorism we face now, has this one specific challenge not always come up as needing focus and some acceptable resolution? Can we again move forward in this? Don't we know other “impossible” conflicts that have resolved? Will extremes be won over soon? Probably not. Can they be greatly marginalized? Yes. Is this specific situation different and not connected to most of what is mentioned above? No. We know how to try, again and again.

“I’m OK, you’re OK”

Do we all around the world argue vehemently within our own families (often in privacy only, but we do, some less, some more than others)? If we have to argue, can we then make it be slightly more OK if we argue outside the family, with others? Of the many conflict management tools, one of the keys is continuing to try to separate the problem from the person, lessen the personal attacks, attack the problems, keep name calling and labels down. Are these not basic round rules of conflict management? Imagine if we could separate the terrorist problem from the “terrorists”? Aren’t we doing that here?

I’ve met the enemy, and it’s me?

Can any of the self righteousness and qualities of the butchers, a Hitler, a Mao, a Stalin, a Amin, and many other horrible despots, even if slightly, be found in ourselves at times? Has it not been uncovered that under certain trying circumstances these inhuman elements and capabilities have come out of the most normal human? Is the answer not more about preventing such tyrannical lawless environments from developing in the first place? Do most of us wish to go there to find out again? We know we ultimately have choice in our actions, even if facing death for them. We know self discipline is involved. Can we interfere with the circumstances before they get to test us again?

The greatest soldier for peace

Gandhi encouraged us to know that sometimes the most powerful example, and the greatest soldier of peace is one who has experienced and knows the hate within him, the horror/terror within, the overwhelming aggression, and then turns it all around.

A sermon on a mount

If mentioning Christ, there is one document that is closest to what we surmise His message actually was, the Sermon on the Mount. If we heard that one sermon, well, would I need to write any of this? As far as I’ve been able discern His is and has been an example of, and a message solely of love, service, forgiveness, community, and the most powerful force in our experience, compassion. Applied to terrorism? Yes, and it’s not “some weak sentimental response”. It’s mighty strength. It’s all right there. Here. Then. Now.

## Service

MLK, Jr. urged “If you want to be great, wonderful. ... But recognize “That he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.” .... Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. You don’t need a college degree to serve....” He stressed caring for others, and that degrees alone don’t a better world make. We have such a contemporary, rich, a still mostly untapped resource in his words and recordings, besides the one always repeated, “I have a Dream”. Should his work not be required study, especially his 1967 recorded speech at Riverside Church about why he was against the Vietnam War? Wonder why that speech has been kept quiet?

## Education

Perhaps this should be number one on the list? Does not most all else rest on, or at least cross into education? Science, cultures, accurate and comparative history, languages, fair trade practices and law... Not just the memorization of selected facts, but as we rely on computers to store more and more of our knowledge, doesn’t our discernment increase in importance? If the world spent on true education a tenth of what it does on militaries would there still be terrorism?

Again, I’ll turn to MLK, Jr. for he answers this most passionately and clearly. “...I often wonder whether or not education is fulfilling it’s purpose.... Even the press, the classroom, the platform, and the pulpit in many instance do not give us objective and unbiased truths. To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of the chief aims of education. Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction.

“The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason but with no morals.

“We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education. The complete education gives one not only power of concentration but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate. The broad education will, therefore, transmit to one not only the accumulated knowledge of the race but also the accumulated experience of social living.” Can we say, Amen?

## Support Islam’s own journey

All the Prophets have such great contributions. Is it helpful when encouraging another to discuss and debate the meanings of their faith, for us to first exemplify and mirror the same in our own particular religion or ideology. Currently and in distant his-

tory we can witness great abuse of and by each of our faiths. God never issued us a single universal copyright, although unfortunately numerous people think they have it. With innumerable religious interpretations of our Books, have not individuals and groups in all faiths equally misused, misquoted or used Their Words and intentions for their own narrow agendas?

I may be wrong but if suicide bombers were calling out the name of Jesus, or Moses, or Buddha, you would see the huge diversity in all those faiths join together in denunciation and shame. Enough bad has been done in Their Names as it is. Those of the three major religions know what their God stands for, for according to our Books we all share the same God, different prophets and books, but the same God, or G-d. Hence we have some authority in this realm to talk about God and suicide bombing innocents (I'm far from saying this is the only form of terror to look at, but it alone merits all our efforts).

In the current terror crisis, while we clean our own houses, and commit to seeing the full underlying picture of terrorism, can we all in the world fully support, not chastise or label, the large and diverse Muslim world to continue to come forth in it's debate and discussion on the essential message of Mohammed? Can we help create the safety to do this?

Through this era of terror, "God is great. There is no God but God." has tragically too often come to symbolize the precursor of a premeditated tragic event. These words and His name are echoed far more often in the chambers of peace and community, but are being preempted by tiny chambers gathering suicide bombers.

This debate and dialogue about what the multitude of messages of Islam are, where Islam is going as a whole, and how it wishes to integrate to a diverse humanity, what level of responsibility it will take, what advice it lends to us, what practical paths they suggest, all needs our welcoming and great encouragement. There is no one forum or one voice as with any of our religions, but can we help them get a great forum to gather for this? There have been numerous brave individuals.

Are any of us free of needing to increase our understanding? The encouragement of accountability, of responsibility, of ownership throughout this work, supports taking this on. The word Allah (God) is being used far too often in this current challenge to be ignored. There are Christian, Jewish and Muslim extremists who welcome the on-coming of "their time". Can we "prove them wrong"? Actions accountable to our leaders of nations, corporations, and our faiths, have many members calling out "Not in our Name". We are hearing more "Not in Their name!" as well. Don't we need more than words? Don't we welcome community action from within each camp? To be clear and fair, the debate with how all our Prophets words are used, needs continual healthy challenge, linked up to corresponding deeds.

Space

Does this have anything to do with our current terrorism challenge? It isn't a priority but can't be counted out. Space exploration can greatly encourage our positive imagination, innovation and scientific base, and probably contribute to our understanding of how to deal with global warming. It is "awesome" for our spirits and fulfills our inclinations toward adventure. Children and young adults especially are emboldened and readily motivated by such goals. It's a real challenge that gets us excited, and refocusses us from our faults and prejudices. If we keep the military from dominating, space work can greatly "make progress in good". People often talk about poverty when hearing about space spending, but it is a positive job creator, and has budgets that are dwarfed by the real spending that takes from poverty, our militaries. The benefits are beyond measurement and beyond our even knowing, like many personal discoveries in our journeys. It requires more of what the world needs, close team work. It most likely will support our survival for unseen reasons.

Don't we like looking up? And from space, it's great to look down. From space we are clearly one human race. Talk about gaining perspective, of this little fragile blue watered environment and life of ours seen traveling through the unending dark cold space. "Space is the place" we share in common, and this life on earth is reliant on it. I'm still convinced someday our energy needs will be fully met by the freely giving sun.

"It's the way the world has always been"

If we are going to triumph over global terror, I suggest we stop saying this line as often as we do. Many always feel compelled to instruct us over and over again that injustice, war, and poverty are just natural occurrences in life. "It's the way the world has always been." "It's human nature." "It's reality." For sure you will be labeled a dreamer and idealist if you don't wholeheartedly agree. But what is their point? Even if it were all true, does that mean we are not to show concern and do what little we can? Brainstorming solutions to problems is a darn good human capability for us to keep on exercising. I have seen that these statements are too often a poor excuse for non-action and lack of citizen responsibility in our too busy lives. "When good people do nothing..."

Is it not true that we make reality, right now, each step? Reality becomes what we envision, what we work towards. That car, light bulb, phone, piano, running water, house, ball team, pace maker, pay check, cure, and great library didn't just arrive by themselves. Is humanity capable of more than being stuck in history or repeating previous patterns of behavior? Have we not shown many a time the where-with-all to turn the impossible around? Thank goodness for those who didn't limit their hunch, their insights, their confidence and energy only within the parameters of others "reality."

Occupation

Rome's at its peak strength allowed territories self rule. Rome's failing had much to do with its reversing that, and increasingly occupying to control people in their territories. Occupation doesn't work for long. Who are the terrorists?

## Hatred, Prejudice

We all inherit some prejudice. Is not hatred an emotion within and available to each and everyone? Even saints have struggled, or, especially saints. Hatred's source can be easily understood and too easily rationalized. That and prejudice each can quickly and skillfully also be labeled "natural" and a "reality", but to attack terrorism of all levels, can they be tolerated at all? Can we recognize it when it rises in us? Non interference fails us miserably here as well. Can we "interfere" and not let one little tiny insidious statement of hatred or prejudice go by? Don't they both need to be repeatedly called for what they are. How else are these emotions brought in for some education, and compassion? If it's true that the majority of our problems are born out of misunderstanding or miscommunication, don't we know a more effective response and remedy over acts of hatred? We do.

## Evil Enemies

May I suggest that the "enemy" should never be simply defined as "evil". It is only helpful for certain politicians and cult leaders, but not the rest of us. I learned something of this over a decade of volunteering in prisons. I also learned this by getting to know people here and around the world who were once sworn arch enemies and are now friends.

People aren't born "terrorists", any more than you or I are. Terrorists are made. When we study and review the lives of many suicide bombers, who have brought terrible terrible evil and the greatest suffering and loss to so many innocents, including children, do we not find testimony after testimony about how good this person was, perhaps how caring, how he or she loved their family and friends, or was never in trouble before, loved playing soccer, perhaps soft spoken or kind, were not religious fanatics before, etc etc. You rarely ever get, "He was a hateful, no good evil person, always trouble, didn't care and couldn't wait to blow people up." These people largely see themselves as fighting a good fight on the side of good and a higher cause.

We didn't get to them before others did. Don't we have to get to them? How? With slogans, rhetoric or promises? Perhaps, but people know when someone is trying to help them, and trying to do the right thing. When we work for a world that is more transparent and just, we'll recognize the other enemies, and great ones, the ones we also must confront.

## Torture, and due process

This paper is largely about what we need to do to win over terror, not what we need to not do. To me torture is such an obvious point, and shocking that it would need to be said. There is no difference between terror and torture in my mind. If we have to check a list to make sure a technique we are employing is torture or not, it is torture. I'm amazed how easy it was for the law enforcement agents I spoke with at a rally to defend the use of torture after 9/11, and how they would just point to that event as being justification. That is a plainly, the dark road. Torture is very tempting when you suspect someone having important information. It also puts us on the lowest rung with the worst of what humans can do. We can stop it as soon as we have clear leadership. We must.

The same with kidnapping and restraining people indefinitely. Does there not have to be some kind of law abiding process for suspects? Hasn't there to be international law here, or quickly created? Otherwise, again, aren't we aiding terrorism everywhere? Overall who and what has this been good for? How are we differentiating ourselves?

## Soft power

I have a first cousin who spent 4 years during this Iraq war leading Peace Corps volunteers in Jordan. During this entire war there are over a hundred, young US citizens, one per village spread out right along Iraq's unstable and dangerous border. They are each building human bridges, getting at what the daily needs are of the village, each putting a human face on America, surrounded and protected only by Muslim families and communities. No guns, no military protection. Isn't that kind of spirit exactly what helps defeat terrorism?

## Being a Patron of the Arts

Why become a patron of the Arts? We need you. Can we see art as a disciplined anti-terror act? I'll never forget when the live music and theater started again after 9/11 here in NYC. Does participating in music, dance, singing, poetry, theater, humor, or taking a walk in a garden or a museum seem superfluous? Are they? We tend to get extremely serious and narrow minded when dealing with terrorism. Does that not also narrow our effectiveness when we lose or narrow our perspectives, and our balance in life? Don't the arts help us gather and strengthen what is vital and best about being human? The arts introduce the quality of openness, and carry our broader education, unveil our civilizations many and often timeless stories, our stories. Good art may reach directly through all our cultures and epochs to our individual core, that same core of humanity. It can nourish the humanist as well those wishing to touch the Divine.

It heals. It joins. It withers without community and sharing. Yes, it's in the fight against our terrors.

## Preparedness

Does not preparedness for disaster greatly lessen its impact? Isn't that a vital part of keeping our integrity, strengthening us, keeping our advantage through this difficult time? It is not fear. It's smart. How many of us citizens are prepared, know what to do, have rehearsed, have kept updated with, and are connected to a community or citywide force in a disaster plan? Very very few. It hasn't been entirely our fault. Our leaders leave this in the hands of members in a few agencies, who have failed in recent years to be coordinated with even themselves, never mind the citizenry. Have leaders shown they know what to do, or given us straight talk and asked us for our input, involvement, or provided us the opportunity for involvement in our own safety and defense? Hoping for the best, and living fully, are we ready for the worse? Not that we can ever be completely, but .... we try.

I have witnessed first hand with Homeland Security tremendous waste of our resources, disconnected information, poor inter agency communication, and again, lack of genuine citizen involvement. Doesn't false security only multiply their chances and the damage done to us?

We do this so in the case we are ever "hit" again, and again, and again, we don't lose it, we don't revert to giving terrorists exactly what they want, we don't lower civilizations bar, we don't become a military barrack and proponents of might is right around the world. We can do much better. Preparedness plays a part in strengthening our resolve and what we value. We've been fortunate thus far in many ways, but a big thank you for those who are working hard and have been vigilant for us.

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## A wrap?

We make our lists (above). They are all incomplete. Have the paths and the directions to a more secure world in large part been taken? Have we called for leadership to listen and answer what we need to know?

Have we too often been told by "authorities" and "higher ups" that "You don't know the whole picture"? As that's a given for each and all of us, including a decider,



might they try harder to educate us further then? If someone has the whole picture, these actions lack evidence of it.

I fully know I know very very little, and oft forget mentioning a key point. So, I welcome, and please, I hope and expect others to add, correct, challenge, further the discussion and remind me of important omissions. I welcome feedback and will continue to add to this lifelong work.

I don't pretend to have close to all the answers, but one is compelled and encouraged by a sense of responsibility to step forward by the disastrous vacuum presented by the main media in the past 7 years especially. We've listened carefully to this media's gathered "experts", pundits, think tanks and international authorities on the issue of war and dealing with "terrorists". I felt many a common person seems to have known better, or had better guesses at outcomes, strategies, and causes. Indeed, many of the thousands of homeless I worked with knew that OJ did it, and they knew before "the war" that we were being sidetracked from terrorism in lieu of oil. How did even they know, and not the media and the representatives we've hoped to rely on? Or are there as they say, simply other agendas masquerading?

There are very good answers to dealing with what is called "terrorism". Hard and soft together. There are proven paths to overcoming the very complex challenge. They are not new and we already know what they are. With the political will, we can do this. We can overcome terrorism, and do it in a way that the world is not a police state, torn asunder, less just, or lessening it's long and hard earned road to human rights. We can have a world that is much safer, hospitable and fulfilling to all. We can turn it all around. We slipped into dark ages again, but can relearn the lessons before us.

It most certainly does not have to be a lifetime of fighting, nor fighting a long "war against terror". War is terror, and for a relative few, a shortsighted windfall of profit. We do have to get back on track to what really works. We do have to deal with what is behind terror. And yes, we have to better define terror, and define all the levels of terrorism. We haven't taken ownership. We haven't played team ball.

When a catastrophe hits humanity we've more often exemplified tremendous pulling together, for many tens of centuries. We can pull together now.

It will take more than words, but I apologize for the Bush Administrations actions in this realm, and a Congress that supported it, pundits who only echoed what they were told, a press that didn't push for facts and real discussion, and a people that let their responsibility as citizens weaken further. It takes strength, courage and character for us to admit our errors. What happened to us? Bravado is what we've heard from leadership. It's plain false. We've been lead astray. The goodness and generosity part of the USA has been betrayed and deceitfully taken advantage of, sucked dry by international conglomerates that show little allegiance to the values of this country. Wrapped in convenient flags, their allegiance seems to be swayed toward their own profit and power.

There are plenty of tyrannical governments, organizations and individuals. We well know only a cooperative world stands a chance at keeping tyranny in check.

I believe in being very tough on terrorism, much tougher than what we've seen. The word "war" should never have been used, especially by those who don't know the underlying intricacies and challenges behind terror. "War" was an immediate door to open many other doors for many other interests besides terrorism. This "War" has greatly weakened our country, and strengthened certain corporations, created an out-source war industry, and greatly multiplied the once handful of runts, still at large, we labeled "terrorist".

When I meet someone interested in conversing they often point blank defy me to come up with answers, "So, what would you do about it (terrorism)?" Most of us seem content with the now too common, "There are no good answers." And "Look we're here and we have to see it through." Yes, but how and what is wrong with a good look as to how we got here, as well as embracing brainstorming the ways forward?

Most all want the quick sound bite reply, the one shot zinger. I fail at making it quick. I tend toward thoroughness, and yes, the attempting to share what I can of a whole picture. I welcome contesting to strengthen the points.

Haven't we learned time and again that all things do and can change? Wasn't it little steps that lead the way? Isn't the hardest part often just starting? Didn't things often improve in ways we didn't predict, direct, intend, or even understand? With motivation, so it is with the challenge of terror.

If there be any war, need it not be a war at the roots of the cancer, the roots of terrorism? Separate the cancer from the person? Attending to terrorism's source is the tougher war to fight, the fight we've been losing recently, by largely ignoring it. Is the kind of "war" we've been told to wage for a lifetime really fighting another kind of war for another purpose?

Apprehending murderers, and prevention of terror acts, sure, but if the words "long war" are ever to be used again, can they turn to the continual lifelong fight of the terror of oppression and injustice, poverty, unchecked greed, of corruption, of disinformation and lies, and the fight to maintain international law and basic human rights? Isn't that the war you can get behind?

There is no end or wrapping up on this subject, for so much of how we handle this great challenge depends on what we do today and tomorrow. It is very very easy to get spun around by the rhetoric and misinformation of all sides. All of us at times don't know what is up or down. We try to see a larger perspective. Of this I am certain, we can do much better, and we can pull together to accomplish these goals with the right spirit.

## Addendum on Responsibility, Accountability:

It starts at home. The buck stops where exactly?

Accountability and Justice are in peril within and without. They are pillars of good management, good governance, good society and civilization. If nothing is done for these two, it encourages worse behavior, worse preventable tragedies, indeed the further breakdown of society, and more terrorism. Scapegoating, false accusations, and blaming all others accelerate the process.

A demonstrator next to me was once carrying a sign saying "Arrest Bush". A US agent came by and yelled, "That's the stupidest sign I've ever seen! What has he done besides protect your sorry ass?!"

Well, most recent demonstration interactions with police and agents have been much more civil but perhaps the agent in a more eloquent moment meant to clarify, "Are you saying Bush and his Administration should be up on criminal charges?"

I try to ask questions at demonstrations. Are our leaders above the law in our country? Don't our soldiers risking life deserve straight truth, as well as tax payers? To help us understand further our connection to terror, and to take wind out of the sail of terrorists, yes, at least we should be investigating the charges of possible wrong doing.

Each of the below are major infractions worthy of criminal investigation. They are just a few.

The 2004 Presidential election outcome did not have thorough investigation of serious voting frauds and disparities. Why were exit polls for the first time in history so far off, and why did Florida flip suddenly? (2000 as well.) We need to insure this not happening again. How else but to know what happened and how?

The Administration never allowed a full investigation of 9/11. For whatever reason why? They delayed and fought the bi-partisan commission tooth and nail, all the while telling us how much they were willing to cooperate. The report remains very incomplete with many vital questions still unanswered.

VP Cheney and this administration never allowed investigation of the environmental studies that were altered and falsified to fit their industries desired outcomes, not the science presented. Nor will Cheney share what his meeting was about with all major energy corporations before 9/11.

This Administration never allowed investigation as to how this Iraq "war" got started and what was behind the stated premise of why they took us to war. What was the informa-

tion shared with our representatives who voted to give the administration authority for war? Was it false and if so who is accountable?

Why are they dragging their heels still, and deterring full investigation and accountability or oversight of the unspeakably vast amount of waste and fraud of our money and equipment in the Iraq war. Who has stolen many millions of our tax money in cash with no receipts? Who was responsible?

Why was only one building in Bagdad surrounded and protected during our invasion, The Oil Ministry? Who made that decision and why? Why was "mission accomplished" declared by our president right after we secured the oil fields?

When were and who made and approved the plans and began right at the start of the war construction of the largest permanent military and US Embassy complex in the world (the Green Zone, more than 5 square miles worth of insulation from the world), all with our tax payers money, and continuing?

No investigation into how torture got to be allowed and done in our name, and how and who changed the definition of torture so certain torture was no longer considered torture?

How did we get to calling people enemy combatants and denying them any due process? How did we coordinate kidnappings, and allow facilitation of detention centers in other countries. Who created and approved Gitmo?

No full investigation on how Haliburton among others got no bid contracts up front and why they were so on the ready. What was/is Bush/Cheney's present and past connection with them all. (Cheney reassured us everything is above board, fine, but let's see.) Who approved the new outsourced security forces and outsourced contractors serving our military with our money. Who decided how many billions of our tax money they were to be given? Who is accountable for each and every purchase, and operating budget and personal salaries?

A lacking investigation on how a criminal Enron leadership and many other dubious companies were connected to those in this Administration. Again, transparency.

Many thousands of innocent lives have been lost. They have been killed by yes, "terrorists", and yes, by us. Killing breaks the prime basic law, and the top ancient commandment of the God they proclaim to follow. We put people in prison and some are executed for killing one person. As one bumper sticker reads: "What part of Thou Shalt Not Kill don't you understand?" Should not our leaders be investigated fully to answer the charges of false statements and knowingly misleading the country with a specific agenda into an unjust war, and if found guilty, be held accountable for massive murder? Can they really be give safe haven and have their money, our money kept safe in their overseas operations?

These investigations strengthen a democracy, strengthen truth, trust, accountability, and doing what's right. It's not about the past, it's about precedent and protecting the future. Guilty or not, investigations done well can get some of our reputation returned. We will shine, as once again the world may see that somewhere, leaders are not above the law, and are held accountable, like others.

Anthony Donovan

NYC

c 1983, '93, '03, updated summer 2007

“To be wise, and love,  
Exceeds man's might.”  
William Shakespeare