AN OPEN LETTER

TO THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF DEFENCE, SENATORS AND MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT

24 March 2017

IN SEARCH OF TRUTH

The Middle East and Australia’s future foreign policy.

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By Margaret Waspe
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.

Margaret Waspe
Australian Citizen
and member of the global community.
24 March 2017
An open letter to:
The Prime Minister
The Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Minister of Defence
Senators and Members of the Australian Parliament

Part 1

I understand that the ANZUS Treaty does not oblige Australia to automatically agree to U.S requests for Australia to participate in areas of conflict.

A trajectory has been set of lawless, ongoing and increasingly horrific war, which really demands that we give time for much deeper truth-seeking and consideration, in determining future foreign policy, if we wish civilized society or democracy to survive at all. We simply can no longer afford decisions made by our political leaders (of any party) on our behalf, for their short-term political gain, and in so doing to distort truth and facts, which might also favour other governments, or moneyed power groups connected with them, that support or influence our political leaders and their parties. When these decisions enable the devastation of other peoples, deep questions must be raised and answered.

I speak for no group, party, or nation. I speak for the right to life of every human being, and the truth that should sustain our lives, and increasingly is being lost.

The report on the Iraq War, by Dr Albert Palezzo from Defence’s Directorate of Army Research and Analysis, written between 2008-2011 “concludes that Howard joined U.S President George W Bush in invading Iraq solely to strengthen Australia’s alliance with the U.S. Howard’s and later Kevin Rudd’s claims of enforcing U.N Resolutions, stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction and global terrorism, even rebuilding Iraq after the invasion, are dismissed as mandatory rhetoric” (see ‘The Age’ 25/2/2017)

The Chilcot Inquiry in Britain also stripped the veneer off immense government deception, which was even apparent to many of us before the invasion. Consider the massive demonstrations and the AC Neilsen poll findings of January 2003, which found that just 6 per cent of voters supported our entrance into that unprovoked invasion, hence a war crime. UN weapons inspectors and on-the-ground US weapons experts had
repeatedly given assurances that Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) were nowhere to be found in Iraq.

This urgently necessitates examination of the Middle East crisis and our involvement in it, in the past, present and future, and the implications of this for future foreign policy, as well as to address the issue of accountability and justice, which our society is supposed to be based on.

Why has this not been done in the U.S.A or the U.N?

Let us ask – why the deception?

If deceived to that degree, in what other ways have we and are we being deceived or misinformed? As that deception was the doing of the leading ‘democratic’ government, what power and motivation really has controlled or still controls the U.S government? Are our intelligence agencies and advisory institutes independent enough to investigate realities, without reliance on what they are told from other ‘friendly countries’ official agencies? As the U.S government has practised such deceit on international issues, we cannot trust any official claims or declarations. If the U.S media have been/are unable to present evidence to counter official deception, then, in our reliance on Western overseas news agencies, how can we trust what we hear about any international events or issues? That leads to the question – a need to review what we think we know of events, which influences how we view other countries, and the foreign policy that we then determine. It is foolish to think that the West is free of its own forms of propaganda.

We have a choice – and, as our representatives, employed by us, to govern in order to care for the wellbeing of all of us, you have a choice – to seek for the truth, even if you have to admit your own mistakes or those of past leaders, and then, with us, work toward a future for the good of all the people.

The first alliance that is needed in the West is that of governments with their people. That’s where a truth and reconciliation process could occur. An alliance with the U.S government that has evolved, especially in recent decades is not an alliance with the real needs of the American people, who have borne the immense cost, in $trillions, of many wars over decades, and in so far as we have participated, so have the Australian people. The only people who may believe they benefit from the endless build-up of increasingly horrific armaments and conflict, are perhaps a small group of industrialists, bankers, their associates and those desiring a sense of power – that the world’s people pay for and suffer for, along with the Earth that gives our capacity to exist. No one benefits.
You may choose to ignore this appeal for truth and thereby lead us more catastrophically into a world of increasing falsehood, mind loss, confusion, fear, hate, lawlessness, arbitrary control and brutality, chaos and devastation. The unspeakable destruction of the Middle East, the source of our civilization, is ultimately our own destruction.

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Part 2

IN SEARCH OF TRUTH.

WESTERN INTERVENTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE 1918

It is close to 100 years since Western intervention began in the Middle East, when after World War 1, the European leaders arbitrarily created new state boundaries, to suit their own interests, with scant regard for the natural delineations of the different ethnic groups, as had also happened in Africa. Their League of Nations mandates to enable the local inhabitants to develop their own self-government, was not seriously undertaken, as the troubled history since then, starkly reveals. Jeremy Salt, an Australian academic, provides a thoroughly researched history. ¹

The inner dealings of Western governments and the illegal covert, ruthless activity of their secret agencies, to powerfully effect socio-political realities for Western government or corporate self-interest, needs to be acknowledged, as well as destructive overt military interventions. Regime change orchestrated by Western agencies in areas of the world, is not new, and it is time to admit that our governments’ claims to uphold human rights and freedom, often hide underlying brute force inflicted on others. Just one example is the coup d’ etat orchestrated by the CIA and British M16 Secret Service, that brought down a modern secular leader of Iran in 1953, who intended to nationalise oil supply for the Iranians, rather than it serve the profits of Western corporate interests. A very corrupt Shah was installed, to the cost of the Iranian people, which eventually led to rebellion and the rise of an Islamic Republic.

IRAQ

In the Iraq-Iran War, Saddam Hussein was covertly supported by the US government, including with the use of chemical weapons against the Iranians, fighters of whom were bare teenage boys. The CIA provided spotting of tracking satellites. ¹,²

Did Saddam Hussein’s dispute with Kuwait pose a military threat to the American people? Was there another way for the dispute to be settled? Imagine living in Iraq and Kuwait in 1991, and experiencing 120,000 air raids in 43 days, with saturation bombing of vital civilian and economic infrastructure, even a bomb shelter with hundreds of women and children, the bombing of lines of civilians and retreating soldiers, the slaughter of defenceless Iraqi soldiers in surrender. 93% of bombs were not ‘smart’, but inaccurate iron bombs and included cluster bombs each with 1800 bomblets with slivers that cut bodies to ribbons.³ Uncounted death, ongoing mutilation and suffering, with
further embargoes, sanctions, bombings and illegal 2003 invasion – on the basis of conscious deception by the US government.

Why?

What power has occupied the leading democratic, or other Western governments, supposed upholders of human rights, freedom and all that the better side of Western culture has painfully nurtured over hundreds of years?

Even in March 1991, Ahtisaari of the United Nations, when visiting Iraq, wrote ‘The recent conflict has wrought near apocalyptic results upon the economic infrastructure of what had been until January 1991, a rather highly urbanised and mechanised society. Now most means of modern life have been destroyed or rendered tenuous’. In 2003 civilian targets were bombed from the outset. For example, Basra was put under siege, water and power sources knocked out, and hundreds of civilians killed in strikes.

Weapons included more use of depleted uranium tank shells that had been fired in 1991, and ‘refined’ cluster bombs etc etc.

Imagine yourself there for twenty years. How can sanity prevail when insanity has been perpetrated on you? And so in the rubble of despair old ethnic tensions rage, extreme groups arise as they do anywhere in such broken societal conditions, and in their fury, contort the local ideologies, religions. It is not simply a matter of ‘radical Islam’. Honesty requires recognition also of Western State Terrorism on a large scale, as described above, and on a small scale, through covert activity. ISIS then may be understood as a type of mirror image of our own dark side.

Is the West’s devastation of Iraq, ‘radical Westernism’?

ISIS

CIA training camps have produced useful ‘rebels’ over time who know how to foment submerged or incipient weaknesses and tensions in societies of the world. The covert CIA trained and armed Mujihideen were used against Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Herein lie the roots of Al Qaeda. Osama bin Laden was present there. Zarqawi was one such fighter. Later he was imprisoned in Jordan for many years, with recurrent torture and solitary confinement. This experience changed him into a brutal psychopath. In response to the US invasion, he started Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), which became Islamic State of Iraq (ISI). His psychopathic, indiscriminate brutality to locals as well as other groups, caused disassociation from Al Qaeda Central (Osama Bin Laden and Zawahiri). Zarqawi was killed by US Forces in 2006. Two aides took the leadership until 2010, when al Baghdadi became leader. He was even more brutal that Zarqawi, and extended
his power into broken Syrian society. ISIS arose. Al Baghdadi, like very many thousands, disliked and resisted US invasion of his country. Such people were placed in US run detention centres as ‘civilian detainees’, where torture was inflicted eg. Abu Ghraib. Baghdadi was in Camp Bucca. Many skilled ex Baathist military personnel, unemployed after the US invasion were in the US detention centres also, and joined ISI, ISIS and became leaders.6

Torture can destroy the capacity to be human. Imagine being in that experience, together with an arbitrary 13 year experience of unspeakable devastation. Have Australian representatives gone beyond the ‘Green zone’ and army barracks?

We are constantly told – ‘They hate us for our freedoms’. Is it not ‘They hate us because we have devastated them and removed their freedoms’?

SYRIA

Given the enormous US government deception, do we really know what is happening in Syria? Why did our government take us into that area? Was that legal?

Assad was legitimately appointed within the given Syrian system whatever we may think of it relative to democracy. There are old ethnic, religious grievances throughout the Middle East, exacerbated as a result of Western imposed artificial state delineations and interference. Given the deception in exerting ‘regime change’ in Iraq, by the US government, could the same be happening in Syria for self-serving US purposes, through weapons, mercenaries, terrorists amongst the rebels. For example, what is true – that Assad in 2013 used chemical weapons to kill 1300 people, or that this Sarin chemical gas came from Turkey and was released by ‘rebels’ to defame Assad in the public eye?7

If the call to sanction Assad for his alleged atrocities has any justice in it, then others should be made practically accountable for their actions over time in the Middle East – The US government, its participating allies in the West, Saudi Arabia and Israel. It is reported that Saudi Arabia is the source of terrorists, is known for its tyranny and its bombing of civilians in Yemen. Without a consistent application of justice and sanction, the reality of our core values, lie in ashes at our feet.

Will our Australian government really uphold justice for all, in the UN, or will it be selective?
PALESTINE & ISRAEL

An adequate historical knowledge is important for our leaders. When history is distorted or re-invented, how can appropriate foreign policy be formed? When the Israeli Prime Minister and our Prime Minister met, it was publicly said that we had a 100 year old history of friendship, since the Battle of Beersheba. Was this corrected at all? Who advises our leaders? Israel became a state in 1948. What are the facts?

From the nineteenth century the European Zionists (in Europe) planned to acquire and expand territorial control in the Middle East and intended to use diverse methods to separate the inhabitants from their land. That was an age when European imperialism was still the norm. Palestine then was a thriving agricultural society with approx. 500,000 inhabitants. In the 1920s the British and the Zionists assured the Palestinian leaders, that by allowing in persecuted European Jews, Palestinian rights would be strictly preserved. On that basis, Palestinian leaders agreed to limited immigration of persecuted European Jews – as long as their land, Palestine was able to retain its Arab identity. There is evidence that Muslims were encouraged by a leader to welcome the Jews as brethren according to the hospitable traditions of their religion.8

As the true Zionist intentions became evident, resistance then grew. The British authorities struggled with what they regarded as Zionist terrorist gangs who acted violently to destabilise the social context. The problem was handed to the United Nations, who with difficulty and intense pressure and lobbying, voted in favour of partition in 1947. Was that biased or not? In 1948, in the Naqba (catastrophe) the Palestinians experienced massacre, were forced to flee from their villages and lands, many still now living in permanent refugee camps elsewhere. Evidence from the writing of Zionist government leaders, shows that a deliberate policy was followed, of – covertly provoking an incident over the border in order to incite a retaliatory response, which would instill fear of danger in their people, and could be used as means of further Israeli powerful military attack and extended territorial control. Peace was never intended.9

...‘this state has no international obligations, no economic problems, the question of peace is non-existent. It must calculate its steps narrow-mindedly and live by the sword .... It must – invent non-existent dangers, and to do this it must adopt the method of provocation and retaliation’ (entry in Prime Minister Moshe Sharett’s diary on 26/5/1955). 10 Is this then ‘radical Zionism’?

Is it surprising that, in reaction the P.L.O, Hamas, Hezbollah have arisen over the decades?
The Prime Minister’s statement that the UN declarations on Israeli illegal settlements is biased, is very dangerous for us all. A boundary was set in international law. Moving over and occupying territory beyond that boundary is therefore illegal. Does the Prime Minister uphold law selectively, or deny it for narrow political purposes? How can we appeal for justice if attempts are made by others to occupy Australia? Would our call for justice also be ‘biased’? Is it more honest if our Prime Minister were to disengage from what protective laws there are, and allow the power of military might and wealth to determine reality completely? Where is he leading us? Boots do not have to be on the ground, for our minds to be occupied and diminished by lack of truth.

Do Australian government representatives ever go beyond Ramallah – into the villages, where people have lost their agricultural lands, and water sources to Israeli settlement, struggle to eke out a means to survive, are subject to the abuse of settlers in different ways, to arbitrary Israeli military raids and vandalism of their homes, have to go through demeaning complex checkpoints in order to access places of work, to travel in their own territory. Imagine being wedged in and squeezed, body against body in a narrow oblong cage structure, barely wide enough for a slim adult, as the passage to turnstiles and further tight-fitting enclosure, then inspection room – as your daily route – all your life? 11 What power authorises this in the name of upholding human rights, justice, freedom. Have we seen this before? My concern is as much for the Israeli people who have been manipulated through deception, into a state of chronic apprehension of imminent danger, if not hate towards Palestinians and Arab people. In order for expansionist goals to be achieved, the humanity of everyone is diminished.

In 1974, I worked as a volunteer on Kibbutz Reshafim in Israel, for about 4 months, followed by a similar time living and working with Palestinians in Eastern Jerusalem. I grew to love the land and its people, but I realised I was in a type of apartheid state. As a concerned person I had been working to bring justice and positive change in the Police State of apartheid-era South Africa, with Jewish friends amongst my working associates. The apartheid leaders carried deep historical bitterness, due to the suffering and deprivation inflicted by the British in the Boer War, and were determined to exert, hold, and extend their power, at any cost, causing great deprivation, subjugation, and land removal for Black ethnic groups. They justified their apartheid ideology, on the basis of the Bible. Were their brutal practices then ‘radical Christianity’? Whites were inculcated with fear of the ‘black danger’ (‘swart gevaar’ in Afrikaans).

The US government has, over decades, ongoinly supplied arms and money to Israel, despite all UN or even US declarations regarding Israeli government illegal activity.
When Saddam Hussein crossed the border, the full weight of US military might was brought to bear on the Iraqi people, in 1991. What is happening?

IRAN

We were frequently told by the US President and the Israeli Prime Minister that Iran was building nuclear weapons. We heard a lot about the ‘axis of evil’. In November 2007, the US National Intelligence Estimates (NIE), was issued by 16 top intelligence agencies which held that what had possibly been a small-scale Iranian weapons research effort, was abandoned in 2003, and never restarted. The Ayatollah Khomeini also issued a ban (fatwa) against the possession of nuclear weapons by the Islamic Republic. His predecessor had issued a fatwa against biological weapons in the Iraq-Iran War. Did our intelligence services know all of this? Did our news media? Again an example of governments’ deception. Israel and the U.S.A have nuclear weapons.

CRIMEA AND UKRAINE

Close to the Middle East is Ukraine and Crimea. We have been told repeatedly that Russia annexed Crimea. Have our politicians, intelligence and advisory bodies confirmed this through independent investigation? I have read that on 16 March 2014 the Crimeans held a referendum in which over 90% of Crimeans voted for an Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which thereby enabled their re-unification with Russia. This was their response to the chaos in the Ukraine. Just after the death of the Russian ambassador to the UN, I briefly heard on the radio, expressions of respect, and then the Ambassador’s voice in just part of a statement in which he referred to a 93% vote of the Crimeans. What is true? Do we subconsciously if not consciously, shut our ‘programmed’ minds to the possibility of truth from Russians? Is it known that Russia has had permanent military bases in Crimea since 1783? Crimea was only made part of Ukraine after 1954 when Soviet leader Nikita Kruschev transferred Crimea from the Russian Soviet Federation of Socialist Republics (RSFSR) to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (UkrSSR). Images can be manipulated. We were told that the former Ukrainian government forces were firing on protestors facing them. There is evidence that the protestors were being shot in the back by snipers. What is the irrefutable evidence that Russia invaded Ukraine? If indeed Russia did invade Ukraine, it is hardly comparable to the devastating invasion of Iraq by Western forces. Russia was subject to economic sanctions, Western powers were not. Why? Is this just?

What, of all the claims made against Putin, are thoroughly evidence based, as required by judicial practice, or are merely speculative?
Even in the Cold War period, the secret CIA branch ran a campaign for very many years to greatly exaggerate the degree of threat posed by the USSR, and to directly influence the media. It was called Operation Mockingbird, and was finally exposed by investigative journalism. A few years later there was a Congressional Hearing (I think 1976) that shut the program down. Years ago I read that President JF Kennedy planned to shut down the CIA, make peace with USSR, and withdraw US troops from Vietnam. He had a tragic death.

After the Boris Yeltsin era, was it wrong of Putin to act to prevent Russia’s natural resources disappearing into the grip of Western corporate interests, as had been happening in Boris Yeltsin’s era? Are the build up of Western armed forces along the Russian border provocative or protective? How do we really know unless we keep independently and openly examining all sources of information?

Whatever the ‘threat’ of Russia or China may or may not be, let us get a balanced perspective. All that is written in this letter, and more that is unwritten, indicates that there is no ‘International Rules based order’, led and ‘supervised’ by the US government. Are there any rules in the manifest behaviour described, that protect and uphold the rights and freedoms of others? Are we well and truly living in the age of ‘double speak’? Is the US behaviour not very threatening? The US is not a signatory to The International Criminal Court, the International War Crimes Tribunal, the International Law of the Sea. Why?

Have you studied the rise of the US based neoconservative vision that developed after the close of the Soviet era? This embraces a strong militaristic world dominance agenda, including unprovoked interventions, the creation of multiple theatres of war, asserting US dominance over natural resources globally, and confronting nation states to achieve that. This included countries of Northern Africa and the Middle East. In 2000, their Project for a New American Century (PNAC) asserted in their report, ‘Rebuilding America’s Defences’, ‘that the process of transformation, even if it brings revolutionary change, is likely to be a long one, absent some catastrophe, and catalysing event – like a new Pearl Harbour.’

In January 2001, the Neoconservatives with President Bush entered the White House. An attack on Iraq was planned. General Wesley Clark has revealed that the Pentagon
also planned war in Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Iran, Lebanon. There were plans to go into Afghanistan. Was the invasion of Afghanistan legal?

Have you considered the following associated factors in the North African, Middle East crisis? Qadhafi and Saddam Hussein had indicated their acceptance of currencies other than $US for their oil. The Taliban refused to give an American consortium the right to build and operate a pipeline for oil and gas. It was given to an Argentinian company, Bridas. This was cancelled when the US entered Afghanistan. The company sued the US government. President Assad refused a US request to build a pipeline through Syria to transport gas from Qatar to the Mediterranean. Russia was/is the main gas supplier to Europe.

AUTHORITARIANISM OF US PRESIDENCY: ARBITRARY POWER WORLD WIDE

Have you examined US legislation since 2001, with respect to protection of human rights?

There is one important example that has recently come to my attention. I have read that under the US Constitution, the Congress, not the President, has the right to declare war. On September 14 2001, the ‘Authorisation for use of Military Force’ (AUMF) was passed, which states ‘The President is authorised to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organisations or persons, he determines planned, authorised, committed or aided the terror attacks that occurred on September 11 2001 or harboured such organisations, or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terror against USA.’ No circumstances can justify such secret or overt power (without checks and balances, judicial process, or any accountability) being given to one person to enact, in the USA and every other part of the Earth. Although covert, illegal activity of US agencies prior to 2001, has been known to some degree, such activity and more, with unprecedented, unsupervised freedom of activity is now officially permitted. In the hands of a power with a militaristic world domination agenda, it can be used more readily to advance that. This is under the banner of protector of human rights, justice, democracy? Is that power an ally of anyone? Are we, through fear, losing our own vital laws, the work of hundreds of years? Both the American and all other people have been deceived, as just some examples indicate. Are there other deceptions that are still unrevealed, or even can be revealed?

The unprecedented freedom given to military units, and private security contractors to quietly assassinate, use drone or missile attacks, or destabilise social contexts around the world, requires careful consideration. How can we know the real causes of events when there is no accountability, no ‘rules’. Are our intelligence agencies in any way
aware of this phenomenon? The secret branch of CIA or other US based agencies, has not in the past necessarily served the interests of the American people, but those of certain elements in government associated with other powerful entities. We need to ensure that our intelligence agencies are not corrupted and remain comprehensively answerable to the Parliament, on behalf of the people.

AUSTRALIA AND THE FUTURE

We are now in a position, in which we cannot make any assumptions, and cannot simply accept official claims from other ‘allied’ governments. We need to independently investigate and be open to statements made from all sources and all governments.

‘Fake news’ can reside in mainstream news, and in alternative news media. We must avoid allowing some power to declare the right to adjudicate on what forms of media constitute ‘fake news’. We cannot presume that a civilisation that has strived to evolve institutions and practices that do protect individual human rights and freedoms, is still on that path. If the upholding and protection of democracy, human rights, justice, was the basis of our alliance with the U.S, then the reality of that ceased in 2001. Australia also invaded illegally with the U.S in 2003. Let us review and recreate the meaning and relevance of alliances on the basis of a powerful vision towards world peace. We need to acknowledge the growing dark side of Western societies, reflect on our own, and find a renewed vision in our international relations if there is to be a future for people and the Earth other than violence, conflict, war with no exit point.

Australian society, though struggling, is still relatively prosperous, in a wonderful country, and with a generous spirit. Let us give hope to the world, by standing independently in our human strength and commitment to truth. We need urgently to focus on building alliances of peace and co-operation with all nations, open to understanding differences of government, culture and history, open to give and receive critique. We need to be free of the false assumption of the ‘good’ West and the ‘bad’ other. Arbitrary authoritarianism is in our midst.

May we, as members of the Western tradition, affirm and deeply acknowledge the suffering, loss, death or at times genocide, inflicted on others through the course of our history or in the present – Jews, and equally, indigenous people of Australia, Africa, the Americas, Asia, island nations, and the Islamic or other peoples of the Middle East. Through the sweep of history, nations and groups have been destroyed and have destroyed. No group has the right to claim exceptionalism, at the cost of others, to justify a position of favoured status. We all carry the history of pain and suffering to different degrees, and in different ways, which can turn into violence, dominance, or
ostracism of others. Are there ‘evil’ people? There are evil actions expressed by people who have often had their own experience of deprivation, brutality, or torture, on an individual or group level. Any of us could be any one else if we were in their historical life circumstances.

Let us reaffirm the human values we fail in, but strive towards – truth, justice, compassion, the right to a fulfilling life for each person and nation, even if their forms of government, culture are different from ours.

The future of the Middle East affects us all. To Zionists with expansionist goals, I would say, - I acknowledge your yearning for land that may have arisen out of historic loss, experience of rejection and death. You have not approached fulfilment of this longing with consideration to the human rights of others, or through honest negotiation. Maybe the weight of your pain, and intense determination to realise your dream, blinded you to the reality of other people’s rights and needs. Could the Israeli people have flourished in peace if you had accepted the boundaries of a two state solution, and undertaken honest co-working with Palestinians? Consider your own humanity and joy, which might be buried under the weight of military might and wealth. Despite the seeming abyss, it is never too late to stretch your hand and heart towards Peace and honest negotiation with Palestinian people or others in the world, and enable the Israeli people to do the same. It has happened before, elsewhere.

Jerusalem and its land has experienced waves of humanity over it. Jerusalem is a significant centre for many. How can that meaningfulness be returned for the experience of all groups concerned? How can this be negotiated freely and constructively between those concerned?

Let the Australian government work to find a way to remove its forces and those of other governments, as well as the flow of armaments via Saudi Arabia and Turkey or elsewhere that support ‘moderate rebel’ or other groups. ISIS has acquired sophisticated US armaments left in stores in Iraq, as well as from inflow from elsewhere, and from ‘moderate rebels’ that join them. Professor Gerges in his book, ‘A History ISIS’, rightly points out that as long as the extremely broken societal conditions prevail, if not ISIS, other similar extreme groups could arise. Do we just blindly keep bombing and destroying, or also look at the real task that is needed?

Let the Australian government work internationally to enable facilitation whereby the people of the Middle East, their ethnic groups, societies and leaders can meet and together negotiate their future destiny, control and determination of their natural resources, and delineation of the territories.
Consideration should also be given to reparation to Iraq for devastation inflicted through unprovoked invasion? Are there other areas?

Could there be an independent international enquiry into the recent political history of countries that have experienced uprisings, conflict, and government change to clearly identify the forces involved in their history of the last 15 years if not more. In the case of Iraq, it could be the last 27 years. Would the Australian government propose and work with such an enquiry, for the sake of peace?

Will our Australian government communicate to the US government our deep concern at the authoritarian power embodied in the US President, as it contradicts, all claims of being a representative nation, based on justice, democracy, and human rights?

Let our Australian government clearly make it known that we will earnestly seek to create relations of peace and positive interaction with all nations, in order to enable world peace, and will also within our relations give critique and be open to critique in a constructive manner. Let us ensure that we acknowledge and work to improve our own weaknesses in the protection of human rights, and be open to more creative solutions in our practices. On that basis, we may then support those suffering human rights violations in other countries, negotiate constructively with their governments, but also have the courage to apply sanctions as a last resort.

Subconsciously, if not consciously, the effect of power and wealth distorts the capacity for truth and dedicated service to the needs of the whole community. Our government’s entrance into War in Iraq, is a major example. We need an independent public inquiry into – Methods to renew the political system, to better serve real community needs.

For historical truth, and legal accountability there should be an extended enquiry into Australian involvement in the Middle East, 2003 onwards.

I do not have the means to campaign and gather millions of voices, signatures in support of my letter to you. Does your consideration only depend on that? Even that was ignored by the Howard Liberal government in 2003, of which some of you were participants. Can truth itself speak, especially when presenting vital realities that concern all people?

Truth is – millions of human beings facing famine in Africa, millions killed in Afghanistan, Iraq and other areas, 19 13 million Iraqis in ongoing humanitarian need.

Truth is – the voice of one brave journalist, researcher, artist, child.
The tortured naked child helped to stop the horror of the Vietnam War. That child is the same child in the Warsaw ghetto, the Nazi camp, the West Bank, Gaza, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, the devastation in Africa, the ‘permanent’ refugee camps, the waste dumps in various countries, the slave market, the child-labour workshops, the detention centres, my child, your child. It is the pained child we may all carry in our hearts.

Let us through our government work to fulfil the real human dream – in our relations with all other nations - go in truth and peace and you will attract truth and peace. That is the ‘strategy’ most needed.

Margaret Waspe
Australian Citizen
and member of the global community.
24 March 2017

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   This is research into some of the US government’s covert operations 2001 – 2011.
19. Dr Gideon Polya estimated the number of Afghan deaths to be 4.5 million by 2010 and Iraqi deaths to be 2.3 million by 2009. See “January 2010 – 4.5 million dead in Afghan Holocaust, Afghan Genocide’, January 2, 2010.
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Notes re. 9/11: Open mindedness is needed regarding all the causes of this pivotal historic event. There are unclarified issues. Research has been done, which I am yet to study.
Additional Reading

The UN General Assembly Resolution 66/225 of 29 March 2012, said that the wall being built by Israel was ‘contrary to International Law’. The vote was 167 in favour, 7 against, 6 abstentions.

The UN General Assembly Resolution A/70/L17 of 24 November 2015, determined “once more that the continued occupation of the Syrian Golan and de Facto annexation constitute a stumbling block in the way of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region”.

This research is into the CIA’s activity in Afghanistan and connection with bin Laden, 1979-2001.

Clinton emails, NATO in Libya to prevent African gold backed currency. ANONHQ.com


Louis Fletcher, The Constitution and 9/11. Recurring Threats to America’s Freedom (Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2008). This deals with policies introduced, which are not in accord with the US Constitution, such as Military Tribunals, Secret Tribunals, Extraordinary Rendition, warrantless surveillance, justification of torture, state secrets privilege, suspension of habeas corpus, the authority of the President to initiate war.
