

Comment by Michael C H Jones

The ongoing travails of Bradley Manning, Edward Snowden and Julian Assange are fast moving from vaudeville to inherently dangerous precedents for the USA and by default the Democratic World. The language of the US prosecution of Manning is at the very least overblown if not verging on hysterical. The withdrawal of Snowden's US passport and "bottling" up in Moscow's International Airport seriously undermines US claims to be the bastion of Human Rights and confirms its well known propensities to "pressure" national governments throughout the so-called Free World. The secrecy of the legalities of the Assange indictment in the US again highlights the duplicity of US leadership. Across the globe large sections of young people are appalled. Not to mention older generations who have watched with mounting disgust the US leadership since the Vietnam War.

Unlike the Cold War years when the choice was clear-cut and unarguable, the US with all its libertarian limitations was infinitely preferable to the totalitarianism of the Soviet Union, this is far from the situation today. The ideological battle is more philosophical, not a question of the ownership and control of property but rather the ways in which 'free people' live - a question of lifestyle and the access to the information which enables reasoned decisions. A highly educated, globally travelled and economically literate voting populace simply will not tolerate authoritarian structures and elitist representatives at whatever governance levels. Democratic institutions cannot perform their monitory functions without access to accurate and timely information.

Again the questions of Democratic Forms and Human Rights embraces the debate about the roles and authorities of security and intelligence organisations - as German Chancellor Angela Merkel is alleged to have said "the Cold War is over". The worldwide bugging of the diplomatic corps of all countries, the interception of non-government communications at all levels and the breach of privacy of ordinary citizens anywhere when linked to the drones policies of the Obama Administration effectively means the end of State Sovereignty and thus has ramifications of an omniscient nature.

In this context the newly restored Prime Minister of Australia, Kevin Rudd, quickly approaches his historical destiny. When first elected and visiting China he said in Mandarin to his PRC/CPC hosts 'a good friend speaks honestly even though the message maybe unpleasant'. Now he must say honestly, and publicly in English, to the US and President Obama "Stop this madness". Too many undemocratic precedents are being committed. Human Rights by any criteria whether UN Covenants, US Declaration of Independence and Constitution or European historical traditions, are being trashed. International conventions sullied across global institutions via financial sanctions, political restrictions, social impediments and and cultural disrespect. The US is simply breeding revolutions everywhere. Understand that China, India and the Muslim counties are cultures too big to intimidate and the revelations by Manning, Snowden and Assange have blown the whistle on the US "Establishment" - the old politics/diplomacy is over as Kevin Rudd might say.

Kevin, tell Bob to get up in the UN Security Council and say that Australia will lead the way to a new Global Society, a multicultural 'Fair Go' for all peoples. Tell him to proclaim that the 'double-standard' is over, that the US can no longer preach Democracy and Rule of Law and then ignore these aspirations when opportune for its own national benefit. A Nuclear Free Zone for West Asia

means the renunciation by all countries of nuclear weapons - you know what I mean Bob. Call upon China to truly put the welfare of the Korean people first and shepherd in a unified Korea, fly there yourself Kevin. But most important of all 'level' with the Australian people, trust them with the information and facts of Global Economic Relations, and use your communications and negotiation skills to assure the American people that 'world hegemony' is too expensive and no longer a viable foreign policy.