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**edited by alexander cockburn and jeffrey st.clair**


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## The Empire Trips Up

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*While Clinton Calls for Free Speech, Ray McGovern is Arrested and Abused Before Her Eyes for Exercising Free Speech*

February 16, 2011

## Hillary's Hypocrisy

Kathleen Christison  
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By KEVIN ZEESE

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[Beyond Tahrir Square](#)

On Tuesday, February 15th Secretary of State Hillary Clinton gave a speech on the importance of Freedom of Speech in the Internet age. She focused her attention on foreign countries and chided them for curtailing the speech of their citizens.

M.G. Piety  
[The Age of Idiocy: We Can't Think Anymore; We Can Only Count](#)

During that speech Ray McGovern, a veteran who also served for 27 years as a CIA analyst, exercised his freedom of speech by standing and silently turning his back on Secretary Clinton. He was protesting the ongoing wars, the treatment of Bradley Manning and the militarism of U.S. foreign policy. He did not shout at the Secretary of State or interrupt her speech. He merely stood in silence. See the video here of the incident:

Steve Breyman

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February 15, 2011

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-Vy8fFnz18>

McGovern's action was a powerful one and it threatened the Secretary of State. Two police officers roughed him up, pulled him from the audience and arrested him. As you can see from the pictures, the 71 year old McGovern, was battered and bruised, indeed his attorney reports he was left in jail bleeding.

McGovern is not just a former CIA analyst. He did the daily intelligence briefing for Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. He also briefed the National Security Advisor, Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Cabinet on security matters. He has come to see that the current U.S. wars are about controlling natural resources, especially oil, positioning U.S. military bases in key areas and protecting the unusual alliance between the U.S. and Israel. So, when he stood silently his speech was being heard.

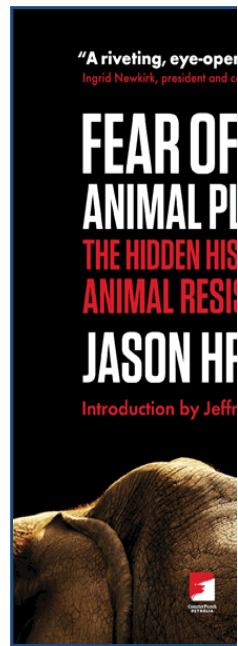
And, when Secretary of Clinton kept speaking about the importance of freedom of speech, as if nothing was occurring before her eyes, Ray McGovern's voice became even louder. The hypocrisy of the United States became thunderous. Free speech was being snuffed out right before her eyes but she kept talking about freedom of speech, doing nothing to protect it while criticizing other countries, U.S. client states like Egypt and those enemies like Iran, for their failure to allow their people to speak freely.

On the same day that McGovern was roughed up and left bleeding by the police, independent journalist Brandon Jourdan returned from Haiti after being on assignment documenting the rebuilding of schools. When he returned to the United States, he was immediately detained, questioned about his travels and had all of his documents, computer, phone and camera flash drives searched and copied. This is the seventh time Jourdan says he has been subjected to lengthy searches in five years, and has been told by officials that he is "on a list." Freedom of speech? Freedom of the press? Did Secretary of State Clinton say anything? No. She remained silent.

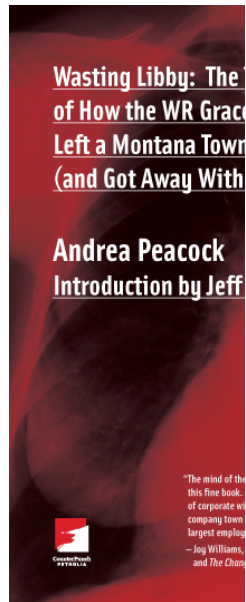
And, on that same day, as he has for the last 8 months, Pfc Bradley Manning sits in solitary confinement, pre-trial torture, for the alleged crime of sharing with the media evidence of war crimes in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as crimes committed by agents of U.S. foreign policy. Included in the documents he is accused of leaking are diplomatic cables that show Secretary of State Clinton issuing a memorandum directing U.S. diplomats to spy, including illegally spying on UN diplomats. During his long pre-trial punishment has Secretary of State Clinton said anything about Pfc Manning's illegal punishment before trial? No, she has remained silent.

Finally, a last example of many all of which I will not describe here, while Secretary of State Clinton was speaking, agents of the U.S. Department of Justice were trying to find a way to prosecute Julian Assange, the editor in chief of WikiLeaks. They claim this super-journalist, whose publication has released more classified documents than the Washington Post has in decades, is not a journalist. Some of the most recent publications of WikiLeaks helped to spark the revolution in Tunisia. And, during the revolt in Egypt, WikiLeaks documents showing that Mubarak's newly appointed Vice President, Omar Suleiman was the choice of Israel to be Mubarak's successor. This U.S. trained military and intelligence officer tortured people at the request of the United States. While Secretary of State Clinton has remained silent about the trumped up investigation of Assange, she did not remain silent about Suleiman. She made it clear, he was America's choice as Mubarak's successor.

Please write Secretary of State Clinton and urge her to put actions to her words. Urge her to stand up for freedom of speech in the United States. First, she should apologize for the treatment of Ray McGovern and seek to have the charges against him dropped. But, more importantly, she should



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ask that Bradley Manning be released for prison and the charges against him be dropped. His patriotic act of exposing war crimes and other criminal activity deserves plaudits from free speech loving Americans. Similarly, she should tell Attorney General Holder that the abusive investigation of Julian Assange and WikiLeaks should be halted. Secretary Clinton is at the center of numerous challenges to free speech in the United States. She could become a leader in reviving this first and foremost freedom in America, or she could remain silent. Click here to urge her to put actions to her words.

Finally, Ray McGovern wrote me a day after his brutal ordeal saying: "The painful bruises are those for our country and its erstwhile ideals physically I hurt, but no broken bones, dislocated shoulders, or anything else that will not heal please pass word around." If you share Ray's concern for the direction of the United States, write Hillary Clinton and support efforts to change the direction of the country.

**Kevin Zeese** is executive director of [Voters For Peace](#) ([www.VotersForPeace.US](http://www.VotersForPeace.US)) and an editor of [ComeHomeAmerica.US](#)

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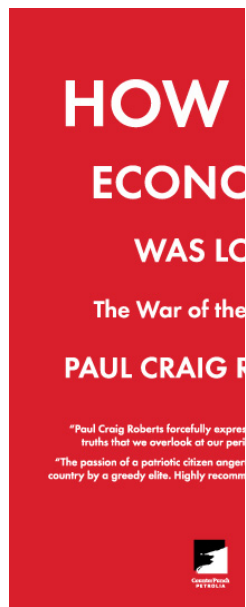
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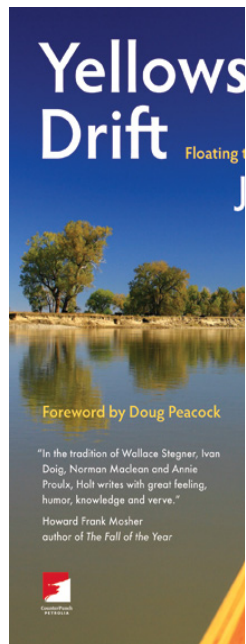
## Wikileaks on Gaza

Read US State Department cables from the Wikileak trove, previously unpublished anywhere! They concern Israel's onslaught on Gaza a year ago and the advice the US was giving Israelis on how to justify their war crimes. Kathy Christison guides us through these nauseating secret dispatches. Tunisia ...Egypt ... Alexander Cockburn on Tremors in the Empire; Carl Ginsburg on record U.S. corporate profits; Larry Portis on how a 93-year old Frenchman is rekindling the spirit of '68. [Subscribe now!](#) If you find our site useful please: [Click here to make a donation](#). CounterPunch [books and t-shirts](#) make great presents. [Order CounterPunch By Email For Only \\$35 a Year!](#)

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Joann Wypijewski reports on the growth of the U.S. torture archipelago and on the church-led campaign led by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) which is striking a spark amid the darkness. Also in this latest newsletter, Diana Johnstone explores the one of the sinister monuments of the Clinton years: Kosovo, whose gangster premier runs a criminal enterprise which has murdered Serbian prisoners in order to sell their vital organs on the world market. [Subscribe now!](#) If you find our site useful please: [Click here to make a donation](#). CounterPunch [books and t-shirts](#) make great presents. [Order CounterPunch By Email For Only \\$35 a Year!](#)

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**Is The Sixth Great Awakening now due? What quarter will it come from? Read Mason Gaffney's extraordinary history and predictions.**

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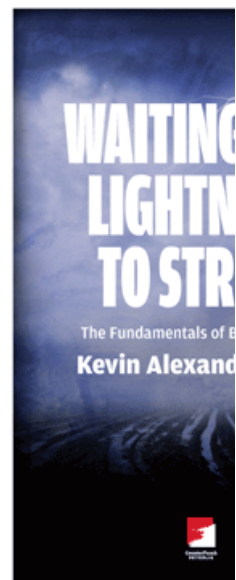
**Don't miss Jeffrey St Clair's riveting account of how animals fight back against cruelty and exploitation. This is history written from the end of the bear's chain, from inside the tiger's cage, from the depths of the orca tank. Read too the forgotten sagas of medieval animal trials, where non-human species were given rights, their consciousness acknowledged. Also in this exciting new newsletter, Larry Portis on why Sarkozy is getting away with it.**

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