Governments Cannot Be Trusted With The Right To Kill

Summary:
Bank Reform Now CEO suggests a way for Indonesia to save Andrew and Myuran - and perhaps improve the lives of many more of us. He clearly explains that the real criminals are not being jailed. Much of the proceeds of drug crimes are laundered and skimmed by corporate interests - specifically criminal banking. Respecting the Right To Life is a critical first step to improve the lives of the bulk of the world's population.

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The Right To Life - Let Our Leaders Know How Important It Is - We Can Save Two Men And Many More

Barring a miracle Australian's Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran will be executed by Indonesia in a matter of weeks. Some people argue that Indonesia should make an exception in this case. How can Indonesia justify letting these two Australians off the hook while enforcing the death penalty for its own citizens? It can't – other more convincing arguments must be put forward.

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I believe the only chance to save these two, is if Indonesia can be convinced to abolish the death penalty altogether. Not much chance of that – or is there?

Two issues must be carefully analysed to come to a rational conclusion. First we need to look at the rationale for the drug laws as they stand. Second we need to look at the death penalty and all its ramifications.

The abuse of drugs is common in most societies. If people want drugs there will always be entrepreneurs that will try and satisfy the demand. Most nations arbitrarily determine what their citizens can and can't do - if selling drugs is deemed illegal then the entrepreneur suddenly is transformed by Government decree into a criminal.

Now this might not apply in Indonesia, but in other nations in South East Asia it suits the people who profit from drugs to have harsh laws. First it artificially increases the profits to be made. Second any mules and underlings caught can be put to death limiting the damage they can cause to the big criminals – often found in the upper echelons of the police, government and some business circles – particularly the dark side of banking where money laundering for criminals – including drug barons - is common and lucrative.

There is a Big Picture folks and my battle with NAB has ignited a passion to expose it and to help trigger the reform that is way overdue.

In my opinion people who use drugs are often making a big mistake, however if they use their drug of choice with some degree of care they will only hurt themselves if something goes wrong. A lot of the damage to society occurs because drugs are illegal. High prices encourage crime. Drug quality is very variable and accidents can happen with dosing and impurities. Obviously people who use drugs carelessly must be aware of the penalties should they inflict harm upon anyone else, whether socially or at work - nor should they drive while under the influence. As a general rule if we put people that make mistakes into jail there would be a massive and unaffordable increase in the prison population.

Many people believe that the people who sell drugs are antisocial scum. Again – if governments killed all antisocial scum there would be quite a lot of killing going on. The sale and use of drugs should be legal and properly regulated within defined parameters - the details of which are beyond the scope of this article. However drug abuse should be managed as a medical / health issue.

There are many cultures in the world so it is difficult to generalise, however if you ask people whether they would rather live than die most would want to live. In fact most would say that their life is precious and should not be taken by anyone.

Based on this fact, I would say that most people believe the Right to Life is a fundamental, sacrosanct and an inalienable Right. This means that no person, politician, judge, jury or thug should be able to take another person's life. Plenty of lip service has been given to this Right but most politicians and the nations they represent do not understand its importance. Even the United Nations has messed up our understanding of this important concept. It is the bedrock – the foundation – of our ability to live in civilised freedom.

The killing of your foe is the act of a savage. The killing of an innocent is the act of a thug.

Unless you are acting in self defence, you are a murderer if you take another's life. The problem is that in many nations politicians and religious leaders have approved murder under certain convenient circumstances. If governments and judges don't respect the Right to Life 100% of the time, why would anyone else in society? Murder is the Number 1 crime! It is the ultimate abomination. This must be acknowledged by the leadership of all nations. Why..? Because the potential flow on rewards to the world are so great.

My argument is that Indonesia could make a great contribution to world peace and prosperity by deciding to truly respect the Right to Life. By making a dramatic, public renunciation of the Death Penalty - under any circumstance - a strong message and a challenge is sent to every corner of the

world. If the people of other nations realize the significance of this and demand their governments do the same then the following should occur:

1. No Politician or Judge will be able to order the death of any individual or group because each and every nation that wants to live in civilised freedom will enshrine the Right to Life in their Constitution.

2. This means no death penalty for any crime.

3. It also means the use of troops or arms to kill other soldiers or civilians is no longer acceptable. War and its associated culture will become a footnote in the history books describing a time of incredibly stupid and inhuman behaviour of a primitive people.

4. The arms industry would be wound up. If you can't kill anyone then you don't need expensive weapons produced. In fact the production and profiting from this industry would become a crime against humanity. With the great advances in technology we can no longer tolerate the use of science and engineering in the development of weapons - the majority of which kill innocent civilians. It means no more nuclear weapons. It means no depleted uranium shells left contaminating huge tracts of a nation's land. It means no more landmines blowing off the legs of children. It means peace!

5. Resources – money and labour - used in weapons production can be used for useful purposes. For example: helping raise the standard of living of the 3rd World whilst also reducing the difficulties most of us face trying to lead healthy balanced lives.

6. The attention of scientists and engineers can be focused on the real issues that must be worked through urgently, e.g. the provision of cheap sustainable energy. We are coming to the end of the fossil fuel age. There will be great hardship ahead unless adequate resources are invested into solving the world's energy needs.

7. If nations rise to the challenge they will co-operate and co-ordinate a worldwide effort to transform the arms related businesses to alternative useful industries and they will gradually and systematically destroy weapon stockpiles. Please consider - the reforms I am discussing will not mean there will no longer be murder and killing - however these crimes will be significantly reduced. Mainly because the government sanctioned industrial scale operation we now endure (and fund) will be radically curtailed.

There are some battles that are worth fighting for to protect core values. There are brave troops who really care about protecting our freedoms and our lives. However, all too often the blood of our young heroes is being spilt by politicians who are really protecting the profits and interests of the corporate arms manufactures and the bankers that fund them.

Looking around the world today with so much death and destruction in the name of religion, it is worthwhile considering that all the Abrahamic religions – Judaism, Islam and Christianity - have as their basis the concept of free trade to increase the abundance of society. Trade requires certainty that your fellow man won't steal from you. On the personal level it means your neighbour or government can't kill you for your property. On the international level it means nations don't invade each other to acquire resources and wealth. Note: This type of mutually beneficial trade is not what governments refer to with their "Free Trade" agreements.

For us in Australia it means facing a harsh truth. Bipartisan political support for abolishing the death penalty was a sign of maturity in our nation. However, when a horrible crime is committed, even though we don't have the death penalty, deep down many of us still would like the perpetrators killed. Once we understand the importance of the Right to Life we will – grudgingly perhaps – insist on appropriate jail terms (and rehabilitation if possible) for offenders.

We have to be able to say that uncivilised sociopaths – people of the Amrozi or Skaf ilk – deserve to die but we choose to spare their lives because our civilised society demands it. This is difficult and we will need incredible self-discipline. Why should we exercise this self-control?– Because by letting

criminals like this live we can stop coercive governments from killing innocent people in other countries. No more ethnic cleansing in Tibet and Yugoslavia. No more wars like Vietnam and Korea. No more military occupations like Iraq. No more massacres of innocent civilians. **No More War!**

The main reason this was not achieved after World War 2 was that the competing ideologies at the time depended on the coercive power of the State as a means of regulating, manipulating, controlling, equalising, homogenising and indoctrinating the people. To do this most effectively the State must have the power: To kill its enemies - To jail its critics - To steal from its citizens – To collude with corporate interests against the people.

So to live in civilised freedom the people must have a cherished and respected Constitutional guarantee of the Rights to Life, Liberty & Property. For this to work the people must accept their responsibilities and avoid the use of force, fraud and coercion in their dealings with each other. Simple isn't it? But if the people in the main don't agree to this then the likely outcome will be to gradually lose all your rights and live in an authoritarian Police State – where, for example, your metadata is monitored and your freedom of speech is limited.

This is what is required not just from us but from every nation in the world – specifically the biggest manufacturers of arms: the USA, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany. Have we had enough of these governments colluding with the arms industry to loot the citizens of their nations and kill the citizens of the third world? Are we sick of bankers profiting from loans taken on by government to fund the war machine? Do you really want to work half your life to pay the taxes & interests payments governments and banks use to fund this racket? The real criminals are not sitting in a Bali jail - *they are sitting in their coats and their ties - free to drink martinis and watch the sun rise.* You can find them in parliaments and boardrooms right around the world.

Every person on Death Row; every person detained without due process, every person frightened to criticise a corrupt government – is a sign that we are immature, uncivilised and undeserving of a life lived in freedom. Are we at the tipping point right now? Have we had enough of the madness infecting our governments and nations? Have we had enough of destruction as a corporate concern – of death as a legitimate business?

I think the time is right. Let Indonesia make the first dramatic move - abolish the death penalty. Let #Bali9 duo Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran live - so that the world can begin to heal. This process seems so big and difficult but really it is so simple. All that is needed is a decision that can be made in seconds. Just answer the questions – Do you want to end the madness? Do you want to live in Freedom? Do you want your children to live in Peace?

Support the Right of every human – man, woman and child – to Life. This is after all - The Fundamental Human Right.

Please Note: I realise that this is an idealistic view of what is possible in our world. Through Bank Reform Now we are campaigning to stop banks and governments abusing their power. Protecting your life and property is a battle worth fighting for. This too is idealistic - but if we take one step at a time and know where we want to go we will succeed. We just have to work together and we can really achieve wonderful things - saving two lives would be a great way to start changing the way things are.

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