



Opinion

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Security, survival and the search for justice

BY REP. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

The Congress authorized the President to use force to deal with the terrorists who attacked our people on September 11. We did not grant the President's request for broader, open-ended authority.

Protecting the American people requires that we be just, as well as determined. In this moment of our national sorrow, we must do everything within our power to prevent further, far-more deadly terrorist attacks.

Our intelligence services now believe that an international terrorist network — trained and funded by a man named Osama bin Laden — played a major role in the attacks upon New York City and Washington, D.C.

In 1998, bin Laden declared publicly that the overriding mission of his terrorist organization is "to kill Americans and their allies — civilians and military." This, he said, clearly and without apology, "is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it." I am convinced that no sane follower of the Islamic religious tradition would plot and carry out the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians for any reason. By the witness of their peaceful lives, the Muslims whom I know and admire make it clear that Islam does not permit Muslims to kill or harm anyone — except to protect themselves, their families and their countries.

In both their actions and their words, however, the terrorists within bin Laden's network reject Islam's standard of justice.

During a 1999 interview with Time Magazine, a reporter asked



Rep. Elijah E. Cummings

bin Laden about chilling reports that he was trying to acquire chemical and nuclear weapons. "Acquiring weapons for the defense of Muslims is a religious duty," bin Laden replied. "If I have indeed acquired these weapons, then I thank God for enabling me to do so."

The knowledge that bin Laden is seeking to obtain — and is fully prepared to use — nuclear and chemical weapons of mass destruction persuaded me to join my colleagues in the Congress in giving the President reasonable authority to protect the lives of the American people.

All Americans must realize, however, that the difficult challenge of bringing a single terrorist to justice will only reduce — not eliminate — the deadly threat that we face.

Our intelligence services tell us that bin Laden now provides financing and training for terrorist groups around the world. Even without bin Laden's leadership and financial support, these terrorists would continue to threaten us.

That is why the President and those of us who serve in the Congress know that, acting alone, the United States cannot successfully meet the threat of terrorism. Only an international alliance that includes many of the Islamic nations can provide the intelligence and other support necessary to identify, find and defend us against the world-wide terrorist network.

To preserve the lives of our people, the United States must lead the world in creating a new kind of international security system — one

that responds rationally and morally to the terrorist threat. Forming and sustaining an effective alliance against terrorism will ultimately require us to offer the Islamic peoples an alternative to bin Laden's hatred — changes in Western policies that give them peaceful options for achieving their legitimate aspirations.

If we fail to do so, those who threaten our families will gain strength from a never-ending line of fanatical soldiers who are willing to die for their hatred. If we fail, our adversaries will eventually obtain weapons of mass destruction — and use them.

We must succeed, or many more innocent people will die.

The great American poet, Maya Angelo, has observed that "if Americans can discern between our inclination toward revenge and our search for justice, we will prevail."

What Maya Angelo was saying to us, I believe, is that humanity has a choice that is both clear and compelling. Whichever of the world's great faith traditions we choose to follow, only a shared search for justice will preserve the lives of those we love.

We are no longer engaged in a cold war confrontation in which the nations of the world must either be "with America" or against us. We have reached a point in human history where everyone's survival depends upon our collective efforts to achieve a universal and just peace.

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings represents Maryland's Seventh Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. He currently serves as First Vice Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

STATEMENT

The following is a statement by Mayor Vera Katz regarding an upcoming visit she and a delegation from Oregon will make to New York City:

"It is fitting that the pioneering spirit of Oregon joins the nation on restoring the path to economic health.

"As a former New Yorker, I am looking forward to leading this delegation, as Portland demonstrates their support for New York, not just financially, but in a human sense.

"New York took care of me 60 years ago, when the citizens of the city embraced me and my family as we emigrated from Europe.

"Ironically, it will be almost to the day that I will return to the city to offer my support in return, this time as a mayor — proof that the American dream does happen.

"Mayor Giuliani's asked for people to come back, to help the city move on economically and emotionally. I am proud to be a part of what I hope will become a national movement."

Vera Katz, Mayor of Portland

University Hails Knight Gift

University of Oregon leaders are heralding the announcement by UO alumnus and NIKE founder Phil Knight that he and his wife Penny are renewing their longstanding commitment to the university.

In making this announcement, Knight recalled the respective legacies of his alumnus father and his NIKE co-founder and coach, Bill Bowerman, saying, "For me alma mater became more than just an expression."

"We are gratified that two of our most generous and committed supporters are back among our ranks," said UO President Dave Frohnmayer. "This is an important moment for the University of Oregon as we prepare to celebrate 125 years of excellence. We have always considered Phil and Penny to be important members of the UO family, and this gesture is yet another example of their selfless commitment to the university and the people of Oregon. They are mak-

ing a very real difference in the lives of our students."

As part of their renewed commitment, the Knights will personally contribute to the Autzen Stadium expansion in a way that allows the project to move forward. The donors have requested that the size of the gift be kept confidential.

"This commitment represents an investment, not only in the University of Oregon, but in Oregon itself. This gift comes at a time when Oregon's economy is facing significant challenges, and this project will provide an economic stimulus to our state and region and will bring important jobs to our community," says Frohnmayer.

The Knights have a longstanding history of support for the UO, including the largest single private gift to the university. The donation of \$25 million in May 1996 helped fund the William W. Knight Law Center as well as an endowment fund to recruit and retain top faculty.

Letter to the Editor Oppression Gives Rise to Hatred

Even as we grieve for the appalling loss of life at the World Trade Center and feel dismay at the targeting of innocent people by terrorists, it is imperative that we recognize the underlying cause of such attacks.

It is the hatred that U.S. government policies engender in the Mideast and around the world. At the same time that we denounce terrorism, we need to acknowledge that it would have no soil to grow in were it not for the oppressive foreign policies of our own government:

- Uncritical support of Israel, to the tune of \$2 billion in annual aid, even while it is exterminating and dispossessing the Palestinians.

- Ongoing bombing of Iraq and embargoes against the entire populations of Iraq and Cuba because of opposition to their leaders. The actions against Iraq have caused the deaths of more than 1.5 million people — which I can only call terrorism.

- Financial and military support of rightwing dictatorial regimes that torture and impoverish their own people throughout the Mideast, South and Central America, Asia and Africa.

- Ruthless promotion of corporate globalization, which is impoverishing the Third World at an astonishing rate, through institutions like the World Bank and World Trade Organization, and escalating brutality against the anti-corporate movement.

- Contempt for the imperative of ending racism by US officials who walked out of the recent World Conference Against Racism.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "riot is the language of the unheard." So too, terrorism arises when people see no means or hope of gaining basic human rights or necessities of life by democratic, peaceful means. If we are unable to learn this simple and oft repeated lesson of history, we are doomed to witness tragedies like that of September 11 again.

Jordana Sardo
Northeast Portland

WEST COAST BLACK PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

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OCTOBER 10-13, 2001

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6:30 p.m. Welcome Dinner

Thursday, October 11th

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Youth Day Breakfast
10:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Youth Day Summit
10:00 a.m. - Noon Political Workshop
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Youth Day Luncheon
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Technology Workshop
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Workshop: Minority Health Issues
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Awards Reception

Friday, October 12th

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Corporate Diversity Breakfast
10:00 a.m. - Noon Business and Finance Workshop
Noon - 2:00 p.m. Black Church/Black Press Luncheon
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. WCBPA President's Reception
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. WCBPA Publisher Awards Dinner
9:30 p.m. Dessert Party

Saturday, October 13th

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