

Restating the Obvious

by

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(Aug. 27, 2006) We have noticed an interesting phenomenon in the recent Israeli attack on Lebanon, the renewed US threats against Iran, and US government contentions that it is winning the war on terrorism. All voices in the debate (at least as it appears in the mass media) seem to have accepted the premise that war is the way to fight terrorism. As long as our political leaders and our media accept this premise, it is necessary for the rest of us to restate the obvious as often and as loudly as possible.

War is not the answer to terrorism. War will never solve the problem of terrorism, but will only breed more terrorists. Terrorism is the last resort of the powerless to the oppression of an overwhelming aggressor. Because war is the ultimate act of oppression, the victims of the war are driven to acts of terrorism as their only way to retaliate against what has been done to them and their families.

Recent history bears this out. Each Israeli attack on Lebanon or the Palestinians results in a rise in terrorist acts against Israelis. The US invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq, each led to a major rise in terrorism both within those countries and throughout the world. Continuing the 'war on terror' will ultimately result in an unsafe world governed by military might, where the only recourse for opposition throughout the world lies in acts of terror.

If we would truly fight terrorism, there are four things we must do. End the 'war on terror' immediately. Increase humanitarian aid to countries where terrorism is bred. Back human rights, including the right to proper nutrition, housing and health services. And legally prosecute terrorists as murderers, instead of giving them the status of enemy combatants engaged in what they perceive to be righteous acts of warfare with an aggressor state.

If we would do these four things, it would make an immediate difference for the better. Of course, to do this, we would have to curtail imperial and corporate oppression of other nations to appropriate their resources. And this would be the end of our wonderful socio-economic system. We would be forced to adopt a new system more equitable and democratic to people at home and abroad. And we can't have that can we?