

Ray McGovern versus Hillary Clinton: Police Manhandle Peaceful Protester

Veterans For Peace Demands Apology From Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

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Editor's Note

Ray McGovern is a frequent contributor to Global Research

Subject: Veterans For Peace Demands Apology From Secretary of State

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Veterans For Peace Demands Apology From Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Watches as Police Manhandle Peaceful Protester

WASHINGTON - February 17 - Just minutes after Secretary Clinton began a speech lauding freedom of the internet, two security personnel forcefully removed an audience member wearing a Veterans For Peace t-shirt who had silently stood and turned his back to her. Ray McGovern, a 71-year old veteran, and former CIA analyst was violently grabbed and forcibly removed from the auditorium in direct view of Mrs. Clinton. According to Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, attorney with the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund, "For this peaceful expression of dissent, he ended up bruised, bloodied, arrested, and jailed.

Secretary Clinton never paused, continuing her speech lecturing other countries about the need to allow freedom of expression and dissent, while Mr. McGovern was hauled out in front of her."

Mr. McGovern is covered with bruises, and the metal handcuffs were fastened so tightly that his wrists were cut and bloody. After being held by local police, he was told that he was being charged with "disorderly conduct."

We asked Ray for a quick statement after his release. He wrote:

"I find myself wondering if this show of brutality may be a signpost on a path to even wider and more brutal repression. I have been comparing what happened during Clinton's speech

Tuesday with my four-minute mini-debate with Donald Rumsfeld on May 4, 2006 in Atlanta (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MInHphR4zBg>). Halfway through, Rumsfeld gives the nod to a black-hatted security fellow to elbow me away from the microphone.

I shout, 'So this is America.' Rumsfeld takes one look at the TV cameras streaming live, makes a snap decision, and tells the security fellow to let me stay. During that same speech in Atlanta, one fearless witness stands dead-center in the audience with his back to Rumsfeld for the entire speech and is not bothered, much less beaten and jailed.

The contrast between the experience of May 2006 and February 2011 can be viewed through the prism of the proverbial 'boiling frog.' There does seem to be a subtle but successful campaign to get people gradually accustomed to increasingly repressive measures; and many, perhaps most, Americans seem oblivious.

After 9/11 Norman Mailer saw a 'pre-fascist climate' reigning in America. If we don't stand up for our rights, it may not be long before we shall have to drop the 'pre.'"

Veterans For Peace is proud of our member Ray McGovern, whose simple, dignified action speaks volumes about the power of non-violence. We abhor the actions of the security personnel who reacted violently and in flagrant violation of Mr. McGovern's First Amendment rights. We also deplore the indifference of Secretary Clinton who didn't bat an eye and we demand that she apologize for her silence and hypocrisy. Most importantly, we call on the American public to wake up to the dark reality of what this country has become...a place where civil liberties and freedom of expression are becoming increasingly endangered, and the government's response to every situation is intimidation and force.

Call 202-647-4000 and write Sec. Clinton to protest:

http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1312/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=5914

Veterans For Peace is a national organization founded in 1985. It is structured around a national office in Saint Louis, MO and comprised of members across the country organized in chapters or as at-large members. The organization includes men and women veterans of all eras and duty stations including from the Spanish Civil War (1936-39), World War II, the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf and current Iraq wars as well as other conflicts. Our collective experience tells us wars are easy to start and hard to stop and that those hurt are often the innocent. Thus, other means of problem solving are necessary.

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