

Towards Police State Canada? Anti-terrorism Bill C 51, To be Adopted by Parliament, The Media Campaign

Global Research News Hour Episode 94

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Region: [Canada](#)
Theme: [GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR, Police State & Civil Rights](#)

"In almost every act of our daily lives, whether in the sphere of politics or business, in our social conduct or our ethical thinking, we are dominated by the relatively small number of persons...who understand the mental processes and social patterns of the masses. It is they who pull the wires which control the public mind." – [Edward L. Bernays, Propaganda](#)

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Bill C 51, Canada's so-called [ANTI-TERRORISM ACT](#) was introduced to Parliament on January 30, 2015.

After some deliberation, the Bill came to a vote on Monday February 23. The governing Conservative party voted to support the Bill. The opposition Liberals voted to support the Bill in principle, although with the caveat they would make amendments once they came to power. [1] The Opposition NDP and Green Parties voted against the Bill. [2]

Bill C 51 is now being brought before the House committee on National Security and Defence. Pending approval it will eventually be re-introduced to the House of Commons for a final vote before it is enacted into Law.

[Legal experts](#), civil liberties [groups](#) including Amnesty International, and the aforementioned politicians have begun to sound the alarm bells about this legislation. They argue that it will have adverse impacts on Canadians not even remotely involved in terrorist activities.

Legal Professors [Kent Roach and Craig Forcese](#) argue that the legislation essentially gives for the first time Canada's spy Agency CSIS (Canadian Security and Intelligence Service) policing powers. CSIS would also have the active capacity to "take measures, within or outside Canada, to reduce (very broadly defined) threats to the security of Canada."

So for example, if a project like the Keystone XL pipeline is deemed by the Canadian

government to be a priority and strongly in the Canadian interest, then CSIS could theoretically provide misinformation to an anonymous foreign environmental funder in an effort to deter that funder from continuing to secretly fund a Canadian environmental group planning a protest of that pipeline without the requisite permit.

Likewise CSIS could break into a private home in order to destroy equipment it believes may be used to wreck pipelines. It could infect and destroy the computers of a radical environmental group believed responsible for “tree spiking,” but for whom there is insufficient evidence for criminal charges.

[Bill C-51 \(Antiterrorism Act 2015\): Short Primer on Key Aspects](#) from [Craig Forcese](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Turning up the heat around this legislation, the day before Bill C 51 was to be voted on in Parliament, there was (coincidentally?) a [story circulating in Canadian media](#) warning of a Somali-based terrorist group inciting loyalists to launch attacks against facilities in Canadian cities, including the West Edmonton Mall.

This week’s Global Research News Hour focuses on some of the most regressive legislation introduced in Canada in a very long time, and particularly the role media is playing in enabling what Green Party leader Elizabeth May has dubbed [‘Secret Policing’ in the country](#).

Long time journalist, author, and media critic Barrie Zwicker dominates the hour with his take on the media campaign and whether it represents an unwholesome collusion between Canada’s fourth estate and the invisible government.

Zwicker’s analysis is followed by a brief breakdown of the Anti-Terrorism legislation by this producer. The source for this material is mostly derived from a series of backgrounders from the aforementioned legal experts.

Finally, we hear a classic tune from legendary folk singer Phil Ochs.

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Notes:

1) Daniel Leblanc, Liberals to support Conservative anti-terror bill, will address the 'gaps' later";<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/liberals-to-support-conservative-anti-terror-bill-but-want-more-oversight/article22784759/> Globe and Mail, " February 4, 2015

2) [Zi-Ann Lum](#) (February 23, 2015), Huffington Post Canada, "Bill C-51, Harper's Anti-Terror Bill, Passes Second Reading Amid Criticism";http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/02/23/rafe-mair-anti-terrorism-bill-c51_n_6739034.html

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