

# ADELAIDE INSTITUTE

PO Box 3300  
Adelaide 5067  
Australia  
Mob: 61+401692057  
Email: [info@adelaideinstitute.org](mailto:info@adelaideinstitute.org)  
Web: <http://www.adelaideinstitute.org>

Online  
ISSN 1440-9828



March 2013 No 679

## Think on these things

Bearing in mind that years' nine and ten school students in New South Wales are now forced to study 'Holocaust' and that they are not permitted to doubt any of the rubbish fed to them, it is Adelaide Institute's duty critically to inform them of the exaggerations, distortions and outright vicious and defamatory lies to which they will be exposed. The following article is a prime example.

A warning to students – if you ask a question and your teacher replies: 'Your question borders on the offensive', then do not remain silent but reply thus: 'A question can never be offensive but a truthful answer may offend those who have been telling lies for a long time, and been getting away with telling lies. Telling lies ultimately erodes trust and relationships break down because love dies with it'.

If you can get this far with your teacher, then depending on whether your response is accepted as legitimate, your teacher is a moral person and is just going along with the directive from the Education Department to teach Holocaust Studies. Have compassion for your teacher because most teachers are enslaved to the hire-purchase trap that exists in our 'free and democratic western society' wherein dissenting voices are quickly silenced through an application of economic sanctions – this being the weapon of choice to enforce conformity of thought in all so-called democracies.

\*

### How the seven dwarfs of Auschwitz fell under the spell of Dr Death:

The hideous experiments carried out by Nazi Josef Mengele on seven trusting brothers and sisters

By [Yehuda Koren And Eilat Negev](#), 15 February 2013 | UPDATED:13:21 GMT, 16 February 2013.

As powerful beams of light revealed the new arrivals at Auschwitz, the SS guards could scarcely believe their eyes. One by one, seven tiny people were lifted off the train. Five were women — each no taller than a girl of five, yet wearing make-up and elegant dresses. They

looked like painted dolls. Huddled together in a circle, the seven dwarfs made no attempt to join the teeming mass of passengers being herded up a ramp by soldiers with Alsatians [German Shepherds] straining at the leash.



© The Mirror

The Ovitz family were subjected to gruesome experiments at the hands of Dr Josef Mengele in Auschwitz

Instead, one of the male dwarfs started handing out autographed cards to the guards who surrounded them. After all, it couldn't hurt for them to know the Lilliput Troupe was famed internationally for its variety shows. Like most of the Hungarian Jews on the train, which had taken three days to arrive at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the dwarfs had no idea they'd just been deposited in the Nazis' most notorious extermination camp.

An SS officer strode over and established they were all siblings from the Ovitz family. Immediately, the order went out: Wake the doctor!

It was nearly midnight on Friday, May 19, 1944, and Dr Josef Mengele was asleep in his quarters. All the troopers on duty, however, were well aware of his passion for collecting human 'freaks', including hermaphrodites and giants.

A lone dwarf wouldn't have been sufficient reason to disturb his sleep, but a family — and seven of them — why, it was just like the fairy tale!

They were certainly right about Mengele. When told about the camp's latest acquisition, the good-looking 34-year-old doctor sprang out of bed.

Meanwhile, the dwarfs watched the rest of the passengers — including their aunts, uncles, cousins and friends — march towards a building with two chimneys that ceaselessly poured out smoke and flames. What was this place — a bakery?

Perla Ovitz, at 23 the youngest dwarf, questioned a Jew in a striped jacket who had helped unload the train. 'This is no bakery — this is Auschwitz and you'll soon end up in the ovens, too,' he told her.

Suddenly, as Perla recounted many decades later, 'each flame looked like a human being, flying up and dissolving in the air. We went numb, then started thinking about the unknown man we were waiting for — if this was a graveyard, then what was a doctor doing here?'

Had he been asked, Mengele would have said he was conducting important genetic research that might one day lead to a professorship.

To that end, he felt no compunction about torturing, maiming and often killing his unlimited supply of human specimens. His enthusiasm, ambition and cruelty set him apart even from the other death-camp doctors.

One of his first jobs had been to deal with a typhus epidemic in the female camp — a problem he solved by sending an entire barrack of 498 women to the gas chambers.

It was also his idea to kill families of gypsies for the sake of their eyeballs, which were extracted for research.

To the Ovitz family, though, a doctor represented hope. So as soon as Mengele arrived, they crowded around him, answering his questions eagerly in chorus.

His excitement mounted as they recounted their family history: their father Rabbi Shimshon Eizik, a dwarf, had been married twice to tall women, who gave birth to seven dwarfs and three conventionally sized siblings.

'I now have work for 20 years,' he exclaimed joyfully.

Mengele whispered orders to the officer in charge. Remarkably, not only were the seven dwarfs, their two normal-sized sisters, sister-in-law and two of their children saved from the gas chamber that night, but so were the families of their handyman and neighbour —

who insisted they were close relatives. In total: 22 people.



**Nazi Dr. Josef Mengele carried out horrific experiments.**

Only three hours had passed since the arrival of their train and most of the passengers — 3,100 out of 3,500 — were already dead. The dwarfs were lifted on to a truck and driven away.

Theirs was to become one of the most extraordinary survival stories of World War II. But it would be many years before it was told, after extensive research and interviews with Perla Ovitz and other camp survivors.

Unusually, the heads of the Lilliput Troupe were not shaven and they were allowed to keep their own clothes. Simon Slomowitz, the handyman, lifted them on to their wooden bunks and performed all the tasks they couldn't manage.

Like all the other prisoners, they lived in a barrack and ate the same watery soup, but it was clear that they'd been set apart.

Instead of having to use the latrines, they were given the potties of dead babies. There was also an aluminium bowl in which they had to wash every day, as Mengele was obsessed with hygiene.

Perhaps, they thought, he wanted them to put on a show? After all, they'd sung and performed sketches since the early 1930s and had even appeared before King Carol II in Bucharest.

Only the increasingly punitive Nazi laws against Jews had put a stop to the Lilliputs' career. Then the day had come when they were ordered to leave their home in the village of Rozavlea.

Anticipating hard times ahead, they'd hidden all their valuables in a hole dug under their parked car before packing their suitcases with stage costumes and filling their pockets with make-up.

On the day they were summoned to Mengele's lab, the women carefully made up their faces and put on their best dresses. To the emaciated inmates who saw them led to a truck, they must have seemed like a bizarre hallucination.

The lab looked like any ordinary clinic, with staff in white coats. All they seemed to want at first was to take blood samples, which seemed a small price to pay for their lives.

But the blood-letting was repeated week after week, along with dozens of X-rays. 'The amount of blood they took was enormous and, being feeble from hunger, we often fainted,' recalled Perla. 'That didn't stop Mengele:

he had us lie down and when we came to our senses they resumed siphoning our blood.

'They punctured us carelessly and blood spurted. We often felt nauseous and vomited a lot. When we returned to the barrack, we'd slump on the wooden bunks — but before we had time to recover, we'd be summoned for a new cycle.'

Mengele didn't know what he was looking for. Far from recording any effort to break the genetic code for dwarfism, the paperwork reveals only routine tests for kidney problems, liver function and typhus.

Psychiatrists bombarded the dwarfs with questions to test their intelligence, doctors repeatedly tested them for syphilis — and boiling water, quickly followed by freezing water, was poured into their ears.



**The Ovitz family were taken to Auschwitz in 1944 where Dr Josef Mengele forced them to undergo medical tests.**

According to Perla, this water torture was excruciatingly painful and nearly drove them crazy. Also alarming was the fact doctors pulled out healthy teeth and plucked hairs from their eyelashes.

Dora Ovitz, the full-size wife of the eldest dwarf Avram, was cross-examined by Mengele about her sex life. As he bombarded her with increasingly lewd questions, he was actually salivating.

Above all, the Lilliputs dreaded suffering the same fate as two male dwarfs — a hunchback and his son — who'd arrived in the camp three months after them. Having decided to send their skeletons to a museum in Berlin, Mengele had ordered his staff to boil their bodies over a fire until the flesh separated from the bones.

So pleased was he with the result that he had another dwarf killed for his skeleton — this time, the unfortunate man was dropped into a bath of acid.

'We'd reconciled ourselves to the thought we wouldn't walk out from the camp,' said Perla. But the notion that our skeletons would be exhibited in Berlin was ghastly beyond words.'

That they survived was down to the whim of the demon doctor. When the time came for everyone in their part of the concentration camp to be gassed, he saved them a second time by moving them to a different section.

The Lilliputs were careful to present a cheerful face to Mengele. They always addressed him as 'Your Excellency' and once sang him one of his favourite songs: 'Come Make Me Happy.'

He was unfailingly polite to his seven captives, often praising them for their appearance. 'How beautiful you look today!' he'd say to Frieda, the prettiest of the dwarfs.

Flirtatiously, she'd reply: 'I knew that Herr Hauptsturmführer was coming, so I took great care to make myself up in his honour.' If Frieda ever skimped on her beauty routine, he'd ask: 'Are you in a bad mood today? Why didn't you apply your beautiful red lipstick?'

Mengele also brought sweets and toys — belonging to children he'd killed — for tall sister Leah's 18-month-old son Shimshon. Malnourished and traumatised, the boy had never cried or uttered a word.

One day, however, he toddled towards Mengele, saying: 'Daddy, Daddy.' The doctor smiled: 'No, I'm not your father, just Uncle Mengele.'

As for Perla, she was painfully aware of what she called the devil's charm. 'Dr Mengele was like a movie star, only more good-looking,' she said. 'Anyone could easily fall in love with him. But no one who saw him could ever imagine that behind his beautiful face a beast was hiding.'

'But we all knew that he was ruthless and capable of the very worst forms of sadistic behaviour — that when he was angry he'd become hysterical and shake with rage. But if he were in a bad mood, the moment he stepped into our barrack he'd immediately calm down.'

'When he was in a good mood, people would say: "He probably visited the little ones."'

At twilight one day, Mengele dropped in to visit the dwarfs with a small parcel tucked under his arm.

He announced that the next day he'd be taking them on a special journey to a beautiful place.

Noticing that their faces had gone deathly pale, he grinned. They would need to look their best, he continued, because they would be appearing onstage in front of some very important people.

He left, leaving the parcel behind. The five women unwrapped it and to their delight discovered a powder compact, rouge, bright red lipstick with matching nail

varnish, a bottle of cologne and vivid turquoise and green eye shadows.



**The family of dwarfs were taken by train to Auschwitz death camp and never believed they would survive**

At dawn, on Friday, September 1, the women helped each other dress and apply a heavy, theatrical layer of make-up. Their glamour restored, they felt jubilant as they were lifted on to the truck that had come to fetch them.

They were taken straight to a large new building in the SS residential camp. Deposited on the lawn, they were soon tucking into a hearty meal served on fine china plates with silver cutlery.

Then, the troupe was led on to a stage inside. The auditorium was packed with high-ranking SS officers and Mengele was standing at the front of the stage. As they looked at him for a cue, he suddenly turned and snapped at them: 'Undress!'

Aghast, with trembling hands, they fumbled with their buttons. Once every stitch of their finery had been removed, they stooped as they tried to hide their breasts and genitals. 'Straighten up!' barked Mengele.

He was going public with his work in genetics, with a lecture entitled: 'Examples of the Work in Anthropological and Hereditary Biology in the Concentration Camp.'

To illustrate his points, he poked the trembling dwarfs with a billiard cue, indicating the site of each of their internal organs. His purpose was to show the Jewish race [sic] had degenerated into a people of dwarfs and cripples, but as he had no concrete findings, he was relying on the naked Lilliputs to give his speech some impact. When he'd finished, the audience rose to applaud and a swarm of SS officers climbed on to the stage to prod at the naked troupe.

Afterwards, the dwarfs were too devastated to accept refreshments. They arrived at the barrack in total silence — only to be greeted by their fellow prisoners as if they'd just returned from the dead.

Mengele continued to protect his research specimens. Not long afterwards, he saved Avram and Micki Ovitz from the gas chamber after another Auschwitz doctor — jealous of his rival's success — 'selected' them for execution behind his back. It was little wonder that when Mengele took a week's holiday, the dwarfs were beside themselves with fear. On his return, Frieda asked him with all the charm she could muster:

'Forgive me for asking, Your Excellency, but when will all this be over so we can go home?'

Mengele frowned. 'What do you mean, meine Liebe [my love]? I can't go home myself. I'm not working here for pleasure, but under orders. You've got nothing to complain about!'

The end, when it came, was swift. As word spread in January 1945 that the Russian army was approaching, Mengele gathered up his medical reports and fled.

Seven months later, the Ovitz family finally made it home, where they found their gold and jewellery still buried under their car. But the village of Rozavlea had irrevocably changed: only 50 of its 650 Jews had returned.

In 1949, the family emigrated to Israel, where they spent several years touring with their stage show until ill health forced them to retire. By the time Perla told her incredible story of the seven dwarfs of Auschwitz, the rest of her family had died.

Mengele, who'd escaped justice by fleeing to South America, drowned in 1979. Had he been caught, Perla said she doubted he would have apologised for what he did to her family.

'But if the judges had asked me if he should be hanged, I'd have told them to let him go. I was saved by the grace of the devil — God will give Mengele his due.'

Perla died peacefully, aged 80, on September 9, 2001.

**Extracted from *Giants: The Dwarfs Of Auschwitz* by Yehuda Koren and Eilat Negev (The Robson Press, £16.99). © 2013 Yehuda Koren and Eilat Negev. To order a copy for £11.49 (P&P free), tel: 0844 472 4157.**

**More Lies at:**

**[\\*The boy who came face to face with Dr Mengele - and survived: LANDSCAPES OF THE METROPOLIS OF DEATH BY OTTO DOV KULKA](#)**

**[\\*Step-grandchildren of Nazi propaganda minister Goebbels are worth billions after inheriting industrial fortune](#)**

**[\\*http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2279410/How-seven-dwarfs-Auschwitz-fell-spell-Dr-Death-The-hideous-experiments-carried-Nazi-Josef-Mengele-seven-trusting-brothers-sisters.html#ixzz2LJksVN9A](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2279410/How-seven-dwarfs-Auschwitz-fell-spell-Dr-Death-The-hideous-experiments-carried-Nazi-Josef-Mengele-seven-trusting-brothers-sisters.html#ixzz2LJksVN9A)**





---

## Prof. Robert Faurisson

By NN, 18 February 2013

Robert Faurisson is perhaps the only academic to have an entire law devised to silence him – a law which was co-sponsored, as it happens, by the present French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius. He has been prosecuted several times by the French authorities, including for an interview given thousands of miles away in Iran!

Police harassment, the freezing of bank accounts, criminal convictions, heavy fines – and on one occasion a particularly vicious armed assault: why should the retired Professor of French Literature at the University of Lyon qualify for such treatment?

The answer is that Prof. Robert Faurisson pioneered a new historical method. Or rather he reintroduced traditional historical method into a field of study from which it had been uniquely and almost universally removed – the infamous “Holocaust” or death under German rule during the Second World War of “six million Jews”, with many being murdered by means of the pesticide Zyklon B in “gas chambers” constructed for the purpose. Thus generations of European schoolchildren have been educated, and adults re-educated.

In studying a literary text, Prof. Faurisson would apply rigorous, precise examination of the writing in its entirety. His crime has been to dare to apply this approach to the critical assessment of historical

sources in relation to the ‘Holocaust’.

Born in Shepperton, England in 1929 to a Scottish mother and a French father, Robert Faurisson was educated at the Sorbonne in Paris, where he received his doctorate in 1972 and taught between 1969 and 1974.

The author of four books on French literature, and inter alia an expert on the works of Louis-Ferdinand Céline, Faurisson was Professor of Modern Literature and Text and Document Appraisal at the University of Lyon from 1974 to 1990.

It was just four years after his appointment to Lyon that Prof. Faurisson’s name entered international headlines. From the start of the 1960s he had been carrying out private study into the historiography of the ‘Holocaust’. From 1974 this became a systematic study of relevant documents, including visits to the most notorious ‘extermination camp’ at Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1975 and 1976.

As early as March 1974 he had circulated a private note to certain specialist scholars at the Sorbonne and elsewhere, asking their opinion on whether the Hitlerian gas chambers were “myth or reality”. Public controversy did not arise until the end of 1978, with a series

of articles and letters in the leading French newspaper **Le Monde**.

On 29th December 1978 **Le Monde** published a brief column under the title “The Problem of the Gas Chambers – or The Rumour of Auschwitz”. Prof. Faurisson wrote:

“Whereas thousands of documents on the Auschwitz crematories (including invoices precise to the last Pfennig) are in our possession, there exists neither a directive to build, nor a study, nor an order of material, nor a blueprint, nor a bill, nor any photograph, as regards the ‘gas chambers’ which, we are told, adjoined those crematories. At a hundred trials (Jerusalem, Frankfurt, etc.), no evidence has been produced.”

Since that pioneering Faurisson article, the trials have multiplied but the evidence has remained absent.

In December 1980 Prof. Faurisson summarised his considered historical judgment on the ‘Holocaust’ in a French sentence of sixty words which translates into English as follows:

“The alleged Hitlerite gas chambers and the alleged genocide of the Jews constitute one and the same historical lie, which made possible a gigantic financial-political fraud, the principal beneficiaries of which are the State of Israel and international Zionism, and whose principal victims are the German people –

but not their leaders – and the entire Palestinian people.”

For this statement he was brought to trial and convicted in July 1981 for “personal injury”, receiving a three month suspended prison sentence, a fine of several thousand francs, and an order to pay 3.6 million francs for the publication of the verdict in the French media.

Due to certain interpretive and procedural difficulties in making such charges stand up under the then existing French law covering “racial defamation” and “incitement to racial hatred”, in 1990 a new law was co-sponsored by the French Communist deputy Pierre Gaysot and the Socialist former Prime Minister Laurent Fabius, who is now Foreign Minister.

That new law – directed specifically against Robert Faurisson – made it an offence in France to dispute any

of the “crimes against humanity” as defined by the post-war Nuremberg trial that was staged jointly by the Western victors in 1945-1946.

During the last two decades Prof. Faurisson has been repeatedly prosecuted under this “Gaysot Act” or Lex Faurissoniana. Moreover he has been subjected to more than ten physical assaults. In September 1989 for example, then aged 60, he was temporarily blinded by a gas spray then knocked to the ground and repeatedly kicked and punched by a gang later described by police as “young Jewish activists from Paris.”

Despite this combination of official and criminal attacks, Prof. Faurisson has continued his research and has published numerous books and articles on revisionist history, as well as testifying at notable international

trials, most famously in Toronto at the trials of Canadian publisher Ernst Zündel during the 1980s.

In December 2006 Prof. Faurisson spoke in Tehran at the International Conference to Review the Global Vision of the Holocaust, before an audience which included the President of Iran, Dr Mahmoud Ahmedinejad.

His paper presented there – “The Victories of Revisionism” – enumerated twenty points on which revisionist scholars had already triumphed, despite decades of denunciation and exclusion.

Prof. Faurisson’s dedicated and courageous approach to the exact examination and evaluation of 20<sup>th</sup> Century history ensures that there will be many more revisionist victories ahead.

---

## The Conversation

### Lunch and dinner with Julian Assange, in prison

18 February 2013, 6.32am AEST



**Author** [John Keane - Professor of Politics at University of Sydney](#)

#### Disclosure Statement

John Keane does not work for, consult to, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article, and has no relevant affiliations.

The Conversation provides independent analysis and commentary from academics and researchers.

**We are funded by** CSIRO, Melbourne, Monash, RMIT, UTS, UWA, Canberra, CDU, Deakin, Flinders, Griffith, La

Everybody warned this would be no ordinary invitation, and they were right. Three hundred metres from Knightsbridge underground station, just a stone’s throw from fashion-conscious Harrods, I suddenly encounter a wall of police. I try to remember my instructions. Look straight ahead. Avoid eye contact. If asked my name, reply with a question. Ask who authorised them to ask. Climb the stone steps. Act purposefully. Appear to know exactly where you’re heading. I don’t.

Through a set of double doors, I’m confronted by more police officers,

this time armed, with meaner faces. “Good afternoon”, I say politely, as I edge towards the receptionist. “I’ve an appointment at the Ecuador embassy. Am I at the correct address?” “Ring the brass bell”, grunts the bored-looking man squatting at his desk. A few minutes later, after some confusion about whether or not my name’s on the appointments list, I’m ushered inside. I’m greeted by the personal assistant of the most wanted man in the world. “Julian is taking a call,” says the well-spoken and debonair young man in black-rimmed glasses. “I’m terribly sorry.

Please do have a seat. Would you like some tea, or coffee, or polonium, perhaps?” There’s a smile, but it’s pretty faint. I know I’ve reached my destination: a prison with wit and purpose.

The deadpan irony sets the tone of the lunch and dinner to come. The silver-haired “high-tech terrorist” (Joe Biden’s description) appears quietly, dressed in crumpled slacks, a V-necked pullover, socks. He’s relaxed, and welcoming. The quarters are cramped. We shuffle down a corridor into his office, where we occupy a desk covered in laptops and cables and scraps of

paper. It's black coffee for him and tea for me. I offer gifts that I'm told he'll like. Popular delicacies from down under: a couple of honeycomb Violet Crumbles, chocolate biscuit Tim Tams, a bottle of Dead Arm shiraz from my native South Australia. I know he likes to read. Lying on his desk is a

biography of Martin Luther, the man who harnessed the printing press to split the Church. To add to his collection, I hand my pale-skinned host a small book I've mockingly wrapped in black tissue paper with red ribbon, tied in a bow. The noir et rouge and dead arm pranks aren't lost on him. Nor is the

significance of the book: [José Saramago's The Tale of the Unknown Island](#). Inside its front cover, I've scribbled a few words: 'For Julian Assange, who knows about journeys because there aren't alternatives.'



**Wikileaks founder Julian Assange says he will run for the Australian Senate. John Keane**

I'd been told he might be heavy weather. Fame is a terrible burden, and understandably the famous must find ways of dealing with sycophants, detractors and intruders. People said he'd circle at first, avoid questions, proffer shyness, or perhaps even radiate bored arrogance. It isn't at all like that. Calm, witty, clear-headed throughout, he's in a talkative mood. But there's no small talk.

I tackle the obvious by asking him about life inside his embassy prison. "The issue is not airlessness and lack of sunshine. If anything gets to me it's the visual monotony of it all." He explains how we human beings have need of motion, and that our sensory apparatus, when properly "calibrated", imparts mental and bodily feelings of being in our own self-filmed movie. Physical confinement is sensory deprivation. Sameness drags prisoners down. I tell how the Czech champion of living the truth Václav Havel, when serving a 40-month prison spell, used to find

respite from monotony by doing such things as smoking a cigarette in front of a mirror. "Bradley Manning did something similar," says Assange. "The prison authorities claimed his repeated staring in the mirror was the mark of a disturbed and dangerous character. Despite his protestations that there was nothing else to do, he was put into solitary confinement, caged, naked and stripped of his glasses."

US serviceman Bradley Manning faces decades in prison after allegedly leaking classified documents to Wikileaks. EPA/BradleyManning.Org

Life in the Ecuador embassy is nothing like this. It's a civilised cell. After eight months, Assange tells me, the embassy staff remain unswervingly supportive, friendly and professionally helpful. They get what's at stake. When delivering messages, they knock politely on his office door, as they did more than a few times during our time together. Yet despite feeling safe,

Assange feels the pinch of confinement. He says the "de-calibration" (he uses a term borrowed from physics) that comes with "spatial confinement" is a curse. That's why he listens to classical music, especially Rachmaninov. He has boxing lessons (gloves are on his study shelf) and works out several times a week ("just to get the room moving around") with a wiry ex-SAS whistleblower. The need for variety is why he welcomes visitors and why, judging from the long and animated conversation to come, he's desperately passionate about ideas.

Assange begins to enjoy the moment. Nibbling a chocolate biscuit and sipping coffee, he springs a surprise. "Truth is I love a good fight. Many people are counting on me to be strong. I want my freedom, of course, but confinement gives me time to think. I'm focussed and purposeful." It sounds implausible. Entrapment wounds; it's painful. Psychic



defences are needed to ward off the unbearable. But striking is his utter defiance. "Never, ever become someone's victim is a golden rule," he says. In graphic detail, he then sketches his ten days in solitary confinement, in the basement of Wandsworth Prison, in south-west London, in late 2010. "I had expected to be completely out of my depth. But I felt no fear. I was tremendously enthusiastic about the challenge to come. I learned to adapt on my feet." He means what he says.



**Bradley Manning**

I'm keen to talk about courage and its political significance. We do so for well over an hour. Lunch arrives: soup and a vegetable wrap from the local Marks and Spencer. His boxing mate appears. Assange says "it will be a while" and politely asks him to wait in the adjoining room. I remind Assange that he's holed up in the right-wing Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, home to one of the safest Tory seats in Britain. So, just for fun, I play devil's advocate by repeating the well-known remark of Winston Churchill that success is never final, failure is never fatal, and that what really counts in life is courage, the ability of people to carry on, despite everything. Assange lights up. "That's undoubtedly true." He's never written or spoken at length about courage, but our time together convinces me he's thought deeply and in sophisticated ways about the subject. He's been forced to. We discuss the detention without trial and torture of Bradley

Manning. Assange mentions how the authorities are "picking off people all around me" (he's referring to the ongoing FBI investigation and arrests of WikiLeaks activists). There's no maudlin wobble. He understands the traps of "obsessive self-preoccupation" and speaks of the vital importance of cultivating a strong personal sense of "higher duty" to carry on. Courage is for him something that's more important than fear because it involves putting fear in its place. I quote Aristotle at him: courage is the primary virtue because it makes all other virtues possible. "Yes, and that's what's worrying about present-day trends. We're losing our civic courage."

So where does courage come from, I ask? What are its taproots? Some people evidently draw breath from spiritual or religious sources, I say. He frowns. "My case is quite different. It's hardship that makes or breaks us. True courage is when you manage to hold things together, even though most people expect you to fall to pieces." The words ooze resilience. They could easily be his personal anthem, the proverb engraved on his Knightsbridge prison walls. He goes on to explain that although courage may or may not be a quality within human genes, a good measure of it is always learned. Courage is cultivated. It's infectious. "Women on average have more of it than men," he says. We discuss examples: on our list are Raging Grannies, Pussy Riot and the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp. "These women show men what courage is. Treated as outsiders, women have learned the hard way how to deal with structural power. They're consequently much more adaptable than men. The world of men is structured force."

The phrase catches me by surprise, but it captures in the most concise way exactly what the prisoner sitting across the table has done, in style, with great courage: he's confronted structured force head-on. Julian Assange could be described as the [Tom Paine](#) of the early 21st century. Drawing strength from distress, disgusted by the hypocrisy of governments, willing to take on the mighty, he's reminded the world of a universal

political truth: arbitrary power thrives on secrets. We run through how WikiLeaks perfected the art of publicly challenging secretive state power. This "intelligence agency of the people" (as Assange calls his organisation) did more than harness to the full the defining features of the unfinished communications revolution of our time: the easy-access multi-media integration and low-cost copying of information that is then instantly whizzed around the world through digital networks. WikiLeaks did something much gutsier. It took on the mightiest power on earth. It managed to master the clever arts of "cryptographic anonymity", military-grade encryption designed to protect both its sources and itself as a global publisher. For the first time, on a global scale, WikiLeaks created a custom-made mailbox that enabled disgruntled muckrakers within any organisation to deposit and store classified data in a camouflaged cloud of servers. Assange and his supporters then pushed that bullet-proofed information ([video footage of an American helicopter gunship crew cursing and firing on unarmed civilians and journalists](#), for instance) into public circulation, as an act of radical transparency and "truth".

We're at the several hours mark, but everybody around me remains gracious. Nobody looks at watches; in fact, there's not a clock to be seen. The debonair assistant pops in and out of the office, sometimes squatting at our table, tapping out messages on his laptop, fielding phone calls, several times handing his mobile to Assange. "It's the latest crisis," he whispers during the first of them. "We handle on average at least four or five a day." He looks undaunted. This one's just to do with the FBI investigation.

When Assange comes off the phone, I change topics. I ask him about his pre-Christmas speech from the embassy balcony, when he predicted that in the next Australian federal parliament an "elected senator" would replace an "unelected senator" (he was referring to Foreign Minister Bob Carr, appointed through the casual vacancy rule). Now that the federal election date (September 14th) has been announced, is he still seriously intending to stand as a candidate?





**Julian Assange says “visual monotony” is the most troubling part of his confinement in the Ecuador embassy in London. EPA/Karel Prinsloo**

Our conversation grows intense. For several years, Assange has been serious about entering formal politics. A new WikiLeaks Party is soon to be launched. He’s sure it will easily attract the minimum of 500 paid-up members required by law. The composition of its 10-member national council is decided. There’s already a draft election manifesto. The party will field candidates for the Senate, probably in several states. And, yes, Assange is certain to be among them, probably as a candidate in Victoria, where (conveniently) three Labor senators face re-election.

Assange bounces through the probable scenarios. Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa will be re-elected, for another four years. He’ll stand firm in his personal and political support for Assange. This will ramp up pressure on the Swedish authorities, whose case against him is “falling apart”, with the two women plaintiffs looking for a way to extricate themselves from the protracted messy drama. “The Swedish government should drop the case. But that requires them to make their own thorough investigation of how and why their

system failed.” The man’s not for turning. He’s certainly no intention of apologising for things he hasn’t said, or done. If he wins a seat in the Senate, he says, the US Department of Justice won’t want to spark an international diplomatic row. The planet’s biggest military empire will back down. It will drop its grand jury espionage investigation. The Cameron government will follow suit, says Assange, otherwise “the political costs of the current standoff will be higher still”. So the obvious question: what are the chances of that happening? Can bytes and ballots trump bullets? Can dare claim victory in his personal battle for political freedom?

What he has in mind has never before been attempted in Australian federal politics. Eugene Debs ran for the US presidency from prison (in 1920). Sinn Fein MP Bobby Sands was elected to Westminster while on hunger strike (in 1981). Under house arrest, Aung San Suu Kyi won a general election (in 1990). In defiance of Israeli occupation and prison confinement, Wael Husseini was elected to the Palestinian Legislative Council (in 2006). There

are plenty of similar examples, so why shouldn’t Julian Assange attempt to do the same, and in style?

By now the boxing mate, kept waiting several hours, has gone home. The young assistant has left for another appointment outside the embassy. Dinner is nowhere in sight. We reach for chocolate biscuits and spend the last hour drilling down into the barriers Assange might well face. We start with nagging questions about his eligibility to stand. He’s characteristically upbeat. The technical objections (raised by [Graeme Orr](#) and others) aren’t real, he says. He’s no traitor to his country, and most definitely not under the “acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience or adherence to a foreign power” (section 44 of the Australian constitution). Truth is he was let down by a gutless Gillard government and forced into political asylum, under threat of extradition. “I’m safe here inside the embassy walls,” he mocks, “protected by more than a dozen police, including one stationed night and day right outside my bathroom window.”



**From the Ecuador embassy to the staid chambers of the Australian Senate – Julian Assange’s journey will be packed with surprises. Australian Senate/Wikimedia**

The man of courage clearly relishes the thought of being the first Australian senator catapulted from prison into a debating chamber. I crack a bad joke, telling him that he’d better hurry up, reminding him that the Commonwealth Electoral Act stipulates that people who’ve been sentenced for more than 3 years in prison don’t have the right to vote in federal elections while they’re serving their sentence. His eyes twinkle, before laying into those who insist that the federal electoral laws are against him, that he’s ineligible because candidates must already be registered to vote. “That’s untrue,” he notes. “The Act specifies only that candidates must in principle be qualified to become a voter.” Assange is right, but since he’s not currently on the electoral roll much turns on whether his preferred strategy of registering as an overseas voter will work. Courtesy of legislation pushed through by John Howard, I know from bitter experience, having once lived abroad for more than three years, what it means to lose the right to vote. Assange says his case is different. He’s been overseas for less than three years (he was last in Australia in June 2010) and intends to return home within six years –

that’s why he’s just applied to be on the electoral roll in Victoria. That leaves two final snags. If victorious, some advisors speculate, Assange might need to take oath before the Governor-General. For this to happen he’d have to be set free, naturally, but it could also be done, “for the first time ever, by video link”. Whatever the situation, continued confinement, he says, would breach the rule that he must take up his Senate seat within two months. “In that case, the Senate could vote to evict me. But that would trigger a big political row. Australians probably wouldn’t swallow it. They’ve learned a lesson from the controversial dismissal of Gough Whitlam.” I’m curious about the kind of political party WikiLeaks will launch. “The party will combine a small, centralised leadership with maximum grass roots involvement and support. By relying on decentralised Wikipedia-style, user-generated structures, it will do without apparatchiks. The party will be incorruptible and ideologically united.” I flinch at his mention of ideological unity. He explains that the party will display iron self-discipline in its support for maximum “inclusiveness”. It will be bound together by unswerving

commitment to the core principles of civic courage nourished by “understanding” and “truthfulness” and the “free flow of information”. It will practise in politics what WikiLeaks has done in the field of information. It will be digital, and stay digital. Those who don’t accept its transparency principles will be told to “rack off”. That’s the ideological unity bit. Assange agrees the WikiLeaks Party must address and respond creatively to the creeping local disaffection with mainstream politicians, parties and parliaments. “I loathe the reactivity of the Left,” and that’s why, he says, much can be learned from clever new initiatives in other countries. We discuss Beppe Grillo’s 5 Star movement (it could well win up to 15% of the popular vote in Italy’s forthcoming general election). On our list is the Pirate Party in Germany (it practises “liquid democracy” and has representatives in four state parliaments). So is Iceland’s Best Party. It won enough votes to co-run the Reykjavik City Council, partly on the promise that it would not honour any of its promises, that since all other political parties are secretly corrupt it would be openly corrupt. Assange lets out a laugh.



"Parties should be fun. They should put the word party back into politics." The WikiLeaks Party try to do this, and to learn from initiatives in other democracies. Supported by networks of "friends of WikiLeaks", it will be seen as "work in progress" designed "to outflank its opponents".

He and his party supporters are bound to attract hordes of detractors. Tom Paine was cursed by foes; he even suffered the dishonour of being called a "filthy little atheist" by Theodore Roosevelt. Assange is similarly facing an army of spiteful enemies. In Britain and the United States, there are signs they're now closing in on him with new arguments. He used to be denounced as a "cat torturer", a "terrorist" and "enemy combatant" and accused of committing "an illegal act" (Julia Gillard). He was attacked as both an "anti-Semite" and a "Mossad agent". There were murderous calls to "illegally shoot the son of a bitch" (Bob Beckel). These days the language is milder but no less vicious. He's said to be 'paranoid', all 'alone' in his gilded prison, abandoned by his supporters, at the British taxpayers' expense. He and WikiLeaks are guilty of the same "obfuscation and misinformation" (Jemima Khan) they claim to expose. Swedish media and politics are meanwhile crammed with crass epithets: "rapist", "repugnant swine", low-life "coward", "Australian pig" and "pitiful wretch" hooked on sex-without-a-condom.



**Auguste Millière's portrait (1880) of the great English champion of liberty of the press Tom Paine. Auguste Millière/Wikimedia**

I can't tell from our time together whether any of this stuff hurts. It's clear he's aware that going into parliamentary politics will involve permanent fire-fighting, but unflappable he sounds. "I've had to deal with the FBI, the British press and more than a few rank functionaries. The Australian press are decent by comparison. No doubt the Australian Tax Office will show an interest in our campaign. Old enemies may make an appearance."

Assange knows that in the age of surveillance and media saturation little remains of the private sphere. I put to him a prediction: the way he dodged questions about the Swedish allegations during a recent video-link appearance before the Oxford Union ("I have answered these questions extensively in the past") isn't sustainable, that avoiding the subject when running for the Senate will be blood to the hounds of the press pack. He asks what he should do. I put to him a positive alternative, which is to come clean on his alleged misogyny. "I'm not interested in softening my image by planting attractive women around me, as for instance George W. Bush did. I like women. They're on balance braver than men, and I've worked with many in exposing projects that damage women's lives. An example is the scandalous practice of UN peacekeepers trading food for sex that we exposed. Our WikiLeaks Party will attract the support of many women." But what about the charge of misogyny, I ask? Isn't Julia Gillard's use of the word to attack the Leader of the Opposition worth widening? The reply is very Julian Assange: "Let's just say I prefer miso to misogyny."

There are moments when Assange seems much too serious, nerdish even, yet one thing's very clear: prison hasn't ruined his deadpan humour. He's smart, and he's shrewd; he's a fox, not a hedgehog. That's why he's counting on lots of public support down under. "When people speak up and stand together it frightens corrupt and undemocratic power", he says. "True democracy is the resistance of people armed with truth against lies." I wonder whether he's right. Australians can be a politically lazy bunch, but we're also known for our cheeky cheerfulness, our taste for

the matter-of-fact, plus our strong dislike of bullshit. We respect hard work and admire courageous achievement. We're mawkish in the company of Ned Kelly underdogs. And so, if a political fight over his election to the Senate were to break out, strong public support for Assange might suddenly surface.

Time's up. Not wanting to overstay my welcome, I slip on my coat, prepare to say goodbye, to pass back through the wall of mean-faced police. Assange shakes my hand, twice in fact. Both of us are pretty tired and stuck for words, so I let myself loose by asking him to ponder a wild southern hemisphere fantasy, a hero's welcome later this year, a rascal's reunion with spring sunshine, fresh ocean air, flowers, banners, tweets, whistles, haunting sounds of didgeridoos. For a few seconds, he smiles, then draws back, looks down, and glances sideways. It's the reaction of a man who knows in his guts there are no easy solutions in sight. The cards are stacked, piled high against success. He's trapped. He knows his fate will be decided not by legal niceties, or diplomatic rulebooks, but by politics. That's why he's aware that in the great dramas to come, nothing should be ruled out.

The Irish bookmaker Paddy Power lists his odds of winning a Senate seat as seven-to-two. The cautious fortune telling may be significant. Down under, nationwide polls conducted by UMR Research, the company used by the Labor Party, show (during 2012) that a clear majority of Australians think he wouldn't receive a fair trial if extradited to the United States, and that in any case he and WikiLeaks shouldn't be prosecuted for releasing leaked diplomatic cables. Green voters (66%) and Labor supporters (45%) are sympathetic to Assange. Significant numbers of Coalition supporters (40%) think the same way. In the most recent UMR poll, Assange tells me, around 27% of voters say they'll vote for him.

That should be enough to slingshot him from Knightsbridge to Canberra. Set aside the cheap diatribes and what you think of Julian Assange as a person, or whether he's done this or not achieved that. The fact is that electoral victory for him later this



year would be one of those rare political miracles that make life as a citizen worth living. In a country weighed down by sub-standard politicians, sub-standard journalists and sub-standard freedom of information laws, the political triumph would be great. It would breathe badly-needed life into Australian democracy. And, yes, if the miracle happened, from that very moment the fun party down under would begin.

It's interesting for me to note how some respondents are becoming personal in their commentary, which indicates to me that they have run out of arguments and then rely on huff-and-puff-and-bluff smear tactics to extricate themselves from things they don't like.

Of course John Keane's item is politically charged, and so it should be, but that does not detract from the human factor there is an individual in London under house arrest for having participated in a

slanted global free expression exercise.

What bothers me to note in all of the above comments is that the emerging viewpoints use Assange's plight without focusing on the larger issues underpinning it - which was brought to the fore by ABC TV's 4 Corners screening the Ben Zygier tragedy that occurred two years ago and only on 11 February 2013 was made known to the world.

How was it possible for Israel totally to clamp down on this matter for two years?

How many more Australians, and others, are 'disappeared' in such manner?

Perhaps I could also ask: How many of your correspondents are supporting the Anglo-French-American multi-national capitalist system that needs wars in order to feed the survival of its industrial complex?

What about their destruction of Libya and the pending destruction

of Syria - then with a possible attack on Iran?

When we focus on this aspect of a larger controversy that fits nicely into the Assange affair, then the Zygier 'suicide' looks more like a planned murder-assassination.

And in order to contextualise this tragedy we may recall how Rudolf Hess at 93 died in his Spandau prison on 17 August 1987, that's spending over 40 years behind bars. He allegedly committed suicide, which made it the first horizontal hanging in history but was strangled by British agents.

So, to your correspondents - welcome to the real and brutal world of which Australia has become a part and where Australian politics is becoming more transparent - thanks to Wikileaks.

<https://theconversation.edu.au/lunch-and-dinner-with-julian-assange-in-prison-12234#comments>

#### The same article appeared on the SBS website and Töben's comment was not censored

##### Your Comments

##### Time to scrap the European Arrest Warrant

Fredrick Toben - from Wattle Park, Adelaide, 3 hours ago  
If a legal process consists of merely ticking boxes to effect an extradition, then basic Common Law principles are crushed - as in Assange's case. On 1 October 2008 I stopped over at Heathrow on my way to Dubai & as Germany wants me for

'defaming the memory of the dead', its issued EAW was activated. In my case three items on the EAW were ticked: racism, cybercrime, xenophobia, which did not make out a charge in the UK and the subsequent appeal abandoned & I was released on 'executive order'.

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/1738040/Lunch-and-dinner-with-Julian-Assange,-in-prison>

**It's a different story when Töben joins 'an academic' discussion group hosted by The Conversation, where infantilism appears to be writ larger and where the truth-content of a matter is irrelevant, something that Australia's leader of the Opposition should know about:**

**From:** Fredrick Toben [toben@toben.biz](mailto:toben@toben.biz)  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 February 2013 7:33 PM  
**To:** [Tony.Abbott.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Tony.Abbott.MP@aph.gov.au)  
**Cc:** [andrew.jaspan@theconversation.edu.au](mailto:andrew.jaspan@theconversation.edu.au) ; [Adelaide Institute](mailto:AdelaideInstitute)

**Subject:** FW: Clarification please

Just for your information how a university CONVERSATION site eliminates a discussion about matters Holocaust-Shoah - on grounds of a comment offending against community standards.

Go to the site and assess its academic value-intellectual standard of discussion-language use, etc..  
<http://theconversation.edu.au/lunch-and-dinner-with-julian-assange-in-prison-12234>

Fredrick Toben

\*\*\*

**From:** Fredrick Toben [toben@toben.biz](mailto:toben@toben.biz)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2013 9:01 PM  
**To:** [andrew.jaspan@theconversation.edu.au](mailto:andrew.jaspan@theconversation.edu.au)  
**Subject:** Clarification please

Dear Mr Jaspan

I received the following advice from your website, and I would very much appreciate you advising me in detail how the

removed item failed to meet your standards, which was my final response to both Emma and Chris.

Below I indicate the deleted item thus:

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

Sincerely  
Fredrick Töben

\*\*\*

-----Original Message-----

From: The Conversation [no-reply@theconversation.edu.au](mailto:no-reply@theconversation.edu.au)  
Sent: Wednesday, 20 February 2013 7:29 AM  
To: [toben@toben.biz](mailto:toben@toben.biz)  
Subject: Your comment on "Lunch and dinner with Julian Assange, in prison" was removed

**Dear Fredrick Toben,**  
**Your comment on the article "Lunch and dinner with Julian Assange, in prison" has been removed in line with our community standards.**  
**For more information you can read our standards here:**  
[http://theconversation.edu.au/community\\_standards](http://theconversation.edu.au/community_standards)

\*

**The Conversation**  
**Community Standards**

**If you act with consideration for other users, you should have no problems. Take some responsibility for the**

**quality of the conversations in which you participate. Help make this an intelligent place for discussion.**

**\*We welcome debate and dissent**, but personal attacks (on authors, other users or any individual), abuse and defamatory language will not be tolerated. Nor will we tolerate attempts to deliberately disrupt discussions. We aim to maintain the conversation.edu.au service as an inviting space to focus on intelligent discussions. Be courteous.

**\*We acknowledge criticism** of the articles we publish. But for the sake of robust debate, we will distinguish between constructive, focused argument and smear tactics.

**\*We require real names.** Contributors who want to comment must use their real names when signing up for an account on The Conversation (unless signing in using third-party services, such as Facebook or Twitter). Organisation representatives creating accounts also must use their own names. Requiring real names helps us maintain a transparent and credible forum for discussion and debate. We reserve the right to delete comments made from profiles with partial names or aliases.

**\*We understand that people often feel strongly** about issues debated on the site, but we will consider removing any content that others might find extremely offensive or threatening. Please respect other people's views and beliefs and consider your impact on others when making your contribution.

**\*We reserve the right to curtail conversations and refuse access.** We don't want to stop people discussing topics they are enthusiastic about, but we do ask users to find ways of sharing their views that do not feel divisive, threatening or toxic to others. Personal attacks are a direct violation of these guidelines and are grounds for immediate and permanent suspension of access to all or part of The Conversation service.

**\*We will not tolerate** racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia or other forms of discriminatory language or contributions that could be interpreted as such.

**\*We will remove any content that may put us in legal jeopardy**, such as potentially defamatory postings, or material posted in potential breach of copyright.

**\*We will remove any posts** that are obviously commercial or otherwise spam-like. Our aim is that this site should provide a space for people to interact with our content and each other, and we actively discourage commercial entities passing themselves off as individuals to post advertising material or links. This may also apply to people or organisations that frequently post propaganda or external links.

**\*Keep it relevant.** We know some conversations can be wide-ranging, but if you post something unrelated to the original topic ("off-topic") then it may be removed to keep the thread on track. This also applies to queries or comments about moderation, which should not be posted as comments.

**\*Be aware that you may be misunderstood**, so try to be clear about what you are saying, and expect that people may understand your contribution differently than you intended. Remember that text can be misconstrued: tone of voice (sarcasm, humour and so on) doesn't always come across when read by others.

**\*The platform is ours, but The Conversation belongs to everybody.** We want this to be a welcoming space for intelligent discussion, and we expect participants to help us achieve this by notifying us of potential problems and helping each other to keep conversations inviting and appropriate. If you spot something problematic in community interaction areas, please report it to [reportabuse@theconversation.edu.au](mailto:reportabuse@theconversation.edu.au).

**When we all take responsibility for maintaining an appropriate and constructive environment, the debate is improved and everyone benefits.**

## The Discussion

[http://theconversation.edu.au/lunch-and-dinner-with-julian-assange-in-prison-12234#comment\\_120271](http://theconversation.edu.au/lunch-and-dinner-with-julian-assange-in-prison-12234#comment_120271)

 **Fredrick Toben**, retired teacher

It's interesting for me to note how some respondents are becoming personal in their commentary, which indicates to me that they have run out of arguments and then rely on huff-and-puff-and-bluff smear tactics to extricate themselves from things they don't like.

Of course John Keane's item is politically charged, and so it should be, but that does not detract from the human factor there is an individual in London under house arrest for having participated in a slanted global free expression exercise. What bothers me to note in all of the above comments is that the emerging viewpoints use Assange's plight without focusing on the larger issues underpinning it - which was brought to the fore by ABC TV's 4 Corners screening the Ben Zygier tragedy that occurred two years ago and only on 11 February 2013 was made known to the world.

How was it possible for Israel totally to clamp down on this matter for two years?

How many more Australians, and others, are 'disappeared' in such manner?

Perhaps I could also ask: How many of your correspondents are supporting the Anglo-French-American multi-national capitalist system that needs wars in order to feed the survival of its industrial complex?

What about their destruction of Libya and the pending destruction of Syria - then with a possible attack on Iran?

When we focus on this aspect of a larger controversy that fits nicely into the Assange affair, then the Zygier 'suicide' looks more like a planned murder-assassination.

And in order to contextualise this tragedy we may recall how Rudolf Hess at 93 died in his Spandau prison on 17 August 1987, that's spending over 40 years behind bars. He allegedly committed suicide, which made it the first horizontal hanging in history but was strangled by British agents.

So, to your correspondents - welcome to the real and brutal world of which Australia has become a part and where Australian politics is becoming more transparent - thanks to Wikileaks.

 **Michael Shand**, Software Tester

In reply to [Fredrick Toben](#)  
Great Comment, spot on

 **Chris Harper**, Engineer

In reply to [Fredrick Toben](#)  
"but that does not detract from the human factor there is an individual in London under house arrest for having participated in a slanted global free expression exercise."

If there is I know nothing about them. The bloke we're talking about, Julian Assange, on the other hand, is holed up in the Ecuadorian embassy in order to avoid being shipped off to Sweden to face sexual assault charges - totally different thing altogether.

 **Emma Anderson**, Artist and Science Junkie

In reply to [Fredrick Toben](#)  
The respect for your comment aside....I could not help but WTF

Have I been living under a rock? I was following the cables and missed the bit where Rudolf Hess died in 1987.

If you mean THAT Rudolf Hess, he was born in 1882 and was thus 105 when he died. Also, if you mean THAT Rudolf Hess, I'm pretty sure he was a Nazi asshole who was involved in killing lots of people and although I'm against capital punishment and assassinations I

think genocidal bastards might just be the exception I don't care about. Of course, I am not sure what the result of his case in the Nuremberg Trials. Although I'm pretty sure the whole lot of them were found guilty, and until you mentioned this, I'd thought Hess was one of the buggers that offed himself around the same time.  
WTF



[Chris Harper](#), Engineer

In reply to [Emma Anderson](#)

Emma,  
Rufolf Hess was born in 1894, and died in Spandau Prison in 1987, the last of the NAZI high command to kick the bucket.

The entire prison was reserved for National Socialist prisoners, and was kept open and maintained just for his benefit after all the others died off. The Brits, French, Yanks and Russians would each take charge for a month at a time. The prison was in East Berlin, but the Ossies and the Russians nonetheless allowed the other members of the four power agreement to come in for three months out of four, right up until his death.



[Emma Anderson](#), Artist and Science Junkie

In reply to [Chris Harper](#)

Thanks for informing me. I was clearly living under a rock and missed that one entirely.



[Suzy Gneist](#), logged in via Facebook

In reply to [Chris Harper](#)

Spandau is in what used to be West Berlin. It was (still is) part of the British sector.



[Emma Anderson](#), Artist and Science Junkie

In reply to [Chris Harper](#)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudolf\\_Hess](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudolf_Hess)

According to this, Hess was in England by 1941 and although faking some symptoms was probably mentally ill.

This means he spent most of the war as a prisoner of war (of his own choice) and might not have been personally involved in the murders. And even the bits he did...well, it might be the case he was...not quite with it. In the psychiatric sense. Not the "Nazis are crazy assholes" sense.

Which does raise a question of culpability. Not a huge one. He could have gone mad and left Germany out of the guilt of doing horrible things when he was actually capable of choosing otherwise.

So why did they kill him in 87? What was the point of that? It was before the

wall fell so I'm not seeing that being a factor.



[Chris Harper](#), Engineer

In reply to [Emma Anderson](#)

Dunno about killing him. I have a vague memory of his health being headline news for about a week before his toes finally turned up. I have to check tho.

I understand that when Hitler learnt that Hess, the National Socialist 2IC, had turned up in England he went completely bats\*\*t spare.

Understandable I guess.

As to culpability, the Wanasee conference wasn't held for another eight months after Hess flew the coop, so he had no involvement in the Final Solution, but all the euthanasia of disabled and other undesirables had been going on for a while, so he was still a mass murderer - by association if not directly.



[Chris Harper](#), Engineer

In reply to [Suzy Gneist](#)

Ah, thank you Suzy. I like being corrected when I'm wrong.



[Emma Anderson](#), Artist and Science Junkie

In reply to [Chris Harper](#)

Right. I did remember something about 1942 being the year they really ramped all that up.

Still...yes mass murderer. Hitler was preaching that stuff, so I doubt Hess never heard of it. He was implicated either way.

The reason I mention the assassination is because Fred did. News to me.



[Christopher Hocking](#), Retired

7 Steps to Legal Revenge by Anna Ardin  
[http://www.democraticunderground.com/discuss/duboard.php?az=view\\_all&address=389x9712568](http://www.democraticunderground.com/discuss/duboard.php?az=view_all&address=389x9712568)

Evidence Destroyed Over and Over Again  
[http://rixstep.com/1/20101001\\_01.shtml](http://rixstep.com/1/20101001_01.shtml)



[Brodie Houlette](#), logged in via Twitter

Just to correct something being thrown around. I have an education in European Union law and the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) that Mr. Assange was being extradited by is more or less incontestable. In that, national courts can only review the process in which the warrant was issued and not content. So its a bit factitious to be stating that any court as reviewed more than the processes in Sweden for the warrant. To be specific, national courts cannot rule

on the content of a EAW and this is why there is pressure in the EU to reform the EAW to allow national courts to review content and the charge that the EAW is for. Whatever EU state the accused is in, the authorities there have an obligation to detain and deport.

Good example is an EAW being issued by the authorities for British national who stole a chocolate bar in Poland. (Which did happen) The UK is obliged to act on the warrant and the accused can only challenge the process and not the charge.



[Fredrick Toben](#), retired teacher

In reply to [Brodie Houlette](#)

Exactly and well put.

On 1 October 2008 the Germans attempted to extradite me on an EAW from London where I had just arrived on a flight from Chicago.

The German public prosecutors had issued an EAW because I am wanted in Germany for so-called 'defaming the memory of the dead', i.e. I am a Holocaust-SHOah questioner and that is a crime in various European countries as vested interest have succeeded in labelling such thinking a 'racial-antisemitic act'.

The implementation of the EAW is a mere matter of ticking boxes, and in my case three items were ticked: racism, cybercrime, xenophobia. Fortunately British Common Law can - not yet! - be reduced to a matter of ticking boxes, and so the judge, although under heavy pressure that expressed itself in her nervous demeanour, found that the charge of 'Holocaust denial' was not made out. The Germans appealed but then gave up when London and Berlin agreed to abandon it, which upset the Mannheim public prosecutor who had already crowed in an Australian newspaper interview that he would have me behind bars in Germany by Christmas.

Of interest is that if matters are rejected on account of the EAW not being clear, then what the issuing authority can do is 'to better' the details, as happened to one fellow I met while at Wandsworth Prison. He was released by a judge but then as he exited the prison the police were waiting outside to serve him with a bettered EAW. Or, a Polish woman had an abortion in Holland and the Polish authorities wanted her extradited because abortion is illegal in Poland. The Dutch refused to extradite. So the EAW is not an absolute legal instrument. But an English fellow I met while inside was



being extradited to France for having failed to pay parking fines.

Had my case continued it would possibly have demolished the EAW, which many British people would like to see happen. Free expression arguments would have swept aside this legally deficient instrument.

A funny moment during the proceedings happened when the judge asked for particulars beyond the ticked boxes and the prosecutor stated: 'Toben knows what he's wanted for in Germany'. That response did not satisfy the judge because a precedent case had one war lord - Diplock? - state that 'drip-feeding' of information was not on.

Also the matter of how many passports I had was raised in court - and as I have only one - the Australian - dual citizenship considerations did not apply, as was the case with Zygiar who was an Australian and Israeli passport holder. Bail for me was set at 100 000 pounds, which was then \$AU250,000, which made me a quarter of a million dollar man! I had three individuals who came up with the money but then it was not needed because the Germans abandoned their appeal to the High Court - and I was released on an 'executive order'.



[Emma Anderson](#), Artist and Science Junkie

In reply to [Fredrick Toben](#)

Fredrick

I find holocaust denialism to be deeply offensive. The holocaust happened.

Nonetheless, if all you did was deny the holocaust, or be known to have an offensive and inaccurate opinion and did not incite anything, or attempt or cause any harm to another person, then I think it is unjust that you were detained and an attempt to extradite you occurred.

Like I said, you are wrong about your opinion.

But, facts aside, you do have the human right to freedom of expression. Or so I thought.

Before...and pardon me for being presumptuous based on experience here...you go on about this being some kind of Zionist plot against freedom of expression....it would be wise to understand that Germany is sensitive to these matters with good reason.

The holocaust and associated activities didn't just hurt Jews, Gypsies, Gays, Disabled etc. It hurt the German people as a whole. It damaged their identity and self worth. Made a proud people

who had produced so many great philosophers and scientists question their credulity as a people and their role in the world. Guilt, shame, confusion. On one hand, needing to feel proud again under the burden of what the Nazis did, on the other, feeling shame for the same reasons (how could we let this happen?). There has been a lot of effort in Germany to prove that as a nation they have moved on and learned from the horrors of Nazism. It is unsurprising that there would be a temptation to go a bit overboard compared to other countries in curtailing any potential resurface of that ideology. People who go to Germany and deny the holocaust may be considered a threat to the security of identity that effort represents. It is more than just a differing opinion, it is one that denies 60 years of effort to prevent that holocaust from happening again. Nonetheless in a nuts and bolts human rights sense, you should not be detained or penalised for freedom of expression.

However, you should also know that your opinion is wrong and if you respected other human beings, you would consider that there is a time and a place, and a manner, to express such ideas that allows space for your rights as well as theirs.



[Fredrick Toben](#), retired teacher

In reply to [Emma Anderson](#)

Emma, you have every right to be offended by what you hear because that indicates you are maintaining your moral dimension.

But when it gets to censoring the expression of ideas/opinions on important issues, then I claim: If you take away my freedom to think and to speak, then you take away my humanity and you commit a crime against humanity - truth is my defence. I know of a lecturer at Adelaide Uni who threatens his students into submission by stating: 'I find your question borders on the offensive!'

In such cases I thumb my nose at such individuals because they are merely expressing their own moral and intellectual bankruptcy by trying to silence an alternate voice, another point of view.

If you look at the current academic/intellectual climate within our secondary and tertiary sector you will find young minds are closed down by such mechanisms because those in charge just cannot cope with factual truth content.

For example, look at the 9/11 controversy. The official conspiracy theory is after 12 years quite untenable on factual argument alone. But because the official narrative has been embodied into the global political framework it needs to be sustained by whatever means, etc.

The same applies to any official conspiracy theory that flows into the body politics. I assume you agree that most historical narratives serve a political - not only - purpose. And if we recall that so many documents are classified for decades, then we know that current historical narratives are skewed expressions of self-interested entities that need to hide the truth, for whatever reason.

The current in-thing academically is, of course, 'greenhouse effect', 'global warming', 'climate change'. And if you are familiar with the problem of obtaining tenure at any university, then a new field of enquiry will naturally invite anxious individuals to follow such opportunities. But the fact that the climate change believers are labelling anyone who disagrees as 'deniers' is their moral and intellectual cop-out, their blackmailing attempt, which I maintain is merely an expression of our normal human 'battle-of-the-wills'. Didn't Richo say something similar when he stated 'by any means'?

Let me end by stating the obvious with an example. A couple of years ago at our annual MACE conference in Sydney, Catherine Branson, then president of the Australian Human Rights Commission, delivered a paper about bullying in schools. She stressed that human rights ought to be taught in schools. I asked her a basic question: 'Where in this human rights legislation is the TRUTH concept at home? She could not give me a clear answer - meaning that the concept TRUTH, which is the foundation of our civilisation, is unimportant, doesn't exist, has no function in all this waffle about human rights.

Once we get away from the language philosophers, away from the Marxist death dialectic and begin again to clarify our basic human values, then discussions will not be a primitive win-lose confrontation but in a win-win clarification mechanism, as Karl Popper advocated. And while I'm at it with Popper I recall how he clarified a problem at a Wittgenstein seminar by asserting that we have moral problems, which Wittgenstein denied but who emphasised his point by waving a fire poker at Popper. The latter responded:

'What about the moral problem of a host threatening his visitor with a fire poker?' Wittgenstein stormed out the room. Frederick



[Peter Hindrup](#), consultant

In reply to [Emma Anderson](#)

'I find holocaust denialism to be deeply offensive. The holocaust happened.'

This is what I like, an open mind!

Frederick Toben wrote that he was an 'Holocaust-SHoah questioner', not a word about 'denial'.

'Like I said, you are wrong about your opinion.'

Did you perhaps mean that in your opinion, and that would have to be 'uninformed opinion', if you believe that there are no questions to answered regarding the holocaust story, as told.

Six or eight other countries also have laws against holocaust denial, France being one. So why is what is merely an historical event off limits to investigation?

Anytime there is an effort by government/s to restrict access to information the reason is that the information, if revealed, will disprove the official version to a greater or lessor extent.



[William Bruce](#), logged in via Facebook

In reply to [Fredrick Toben](#)

Why do people focus on crimes we can NOT now prevent (e.g. Holocaust) ..and NOT on crimes which we CAN prevent now?...

...one example perhaps being Israel Govts. murdering & racism & THEFT of property from non-Jews at gunpoint... Seems to me we are using sanctions on the wrong Countries...



[Chris Harper](#), Engineer

In reply to [Brodie Houlette](#)

In this country you cannot be extradited unless the offence cited is a crime in Australia as well as the country requesting extradition. This is pretty much standard, under all extradition treaties.

The European Arrest Warrant, on the other hand, has no such protection. The treaty contains a list of offences to which it applies, and it matters not whether it is an offense in both countries or not.

Holocaust denial is not an offence in the UK, and nor should it BTW, but Germany was able to demand Frederick Toben be slapped up and subject to legal action

regardless. Mr Tobens views may be repugnant, but his treatment by the UK, Germany and the EU was no less so. That this country is moving in the same direction, both further and faster, is a matter that should worry everyone who does not wish to be gagged and knocked around by the state.



[Emma Anderson](#), Artist and Science Junkie

In reply to [Chris Harper](#)

To the people that have replied to me, My opinion is closer to Chris' on this matter than your replies acknowledged. Perhaps Chris has summarised the issue better than I have, however, I was also attempting to be sympathetic or at least understanding of the needs behind why Germany is extra-sensitive about anything remotely connected to Nazism. I would also add to Frederick that if you deny my right to be offended for moral reasons, you deny my humanity, too. Not that you have done so, however, it is worth pointing that out.

I found it repugnant that you were detained for merely holding an opinion and expressed as such. You ignored that in your ranting reply, perhaps because I did more than simply sympathise with you and played devil's advocate. Apparently empathy is enough to confuse an issue.

As for claims that there are unanswered questions about history, there will always be unanswered questions. But, the question of whether or not the Nazis killed millions of people and detained a great deal more has been answered. That is of course the official account. The personal also matters. First hand witnesses.

I have met at least one person with the numbered tattoo on their forearm. They had no agenda and we did not even speak to each other due to a language barrier. For me, regardless of what the official account is, or how many people don't want that to be true, for that person at least, I know it was true.

I have also known people of German descent whose fathers or grandfathers were conscripted by Hitler's system to serve in the army. I can see the variables I articulated playing out in those families, and those variables are common in people who have been asked to do terrible things in many names.

That is why I find holocaust denialism (any attempt to suggest it didn't happen) deeply offensive. It offends holocaust survivors and (forced) perpetrators alike.

The truth matters to me, just as much as the right of free expression and movement matters to me.

Frederick you were detained in contradiction to your fight to free expression. That is wrong.

Millions of people in WW2 were denied their right to free expression and were detained. That was one of the reasons why the UN charters on civil and political rights, which grant you your rights under international law, exist.

That is a known from history, too.



[Peter Hindrup](#), consultant

In reply to [William Bruce](#)

Sanctions? Agreed.

Why examine the holocaust? Because it is as justification for the behaviour of Israelis, and by others as justification for not standing up to the Israelis. Then there is the matter of the money gouging premised upon the 'unique suffering'.

For the Jews/Israelis an awful lot hangs on the 'Holocaust' story being accepted without question.



[Fredrick Toben](#), retired teacher

In reply to [Emma Anderson](#)

'ranting reply'?

Emma, it's a matter of values, a matter of a coherent and fearlessly-held world view. if you plod along from one particular to the next without ever developing an overarching narrative of connectivity, then the personal concentration span for many is a problem.

Playing the devil's advocate is to me, indeed, playing games. For me life is a little more serious than playing games but I qualify that by saying we must not take life too seriously because we know it's not forever.

I find in academia we have many cowards who fear fear of fear - and of course are cautious on account of having to maintain family and career because without the latter the former usually implodes as well.

Think of the recent Nick Xenophon Malaysian expulsion. Let's clearly look at what this affair throws up. The fact that Malaysia is a reasonably stable multi-racial society where Malays fear losing control of their own country and where the western import-Soros-like colour revolution seeks control over its resources, and this is represented by Xenophon... and what follows can be gleaned from any country's historical record where similar impulses emerged.

But I now need to bow out of this conversation - there's work to be done.



[Emma Anderson](#), Artist and Science Junkie

In reply to [Fredrick Toben](#)

Devil's advocate is a term that I am using to denote the fact that I'm willing to consider an opinion or perspective that I do not personally hold myself in the interest of expanding the thinking space of a particular topic.

That is not a game to me, it is a strategy employed in becoming a less narrow minded and self absorbed individual. Perhaps the term means something else to you and I was not aware of that.

Yes academia has its' cowards and so do politicians and the public at large. That said, a coherent and fearlessly held world view sounds very couragous on the surface but it too can be a form of cowardice because it denies the thinker the opportunity to grow from the possibility of being wrong.

As far as this relates to the holocaust, it happened and people who disagree are wrong. However, people who question the official account of how it happened or why it happened or even if it stopped after 1945 or began in 1942 or whatever.....some details as such....are not cowards. That makes sense to me, to question history. And an effective means, I find, to be able to do so is to not have a coherent world view and to not fear living without one.



[Emma Anderson](#), Artist and Science Junkie

In reply to [Peter Hindrup](#)

It's actually more complicated than that. To an extent, the reasons why the Allies took part of Palestine and turned it into Israel was because of the holocaust.

But the reasons why Israel expanded, invaded and continue to treat Palestinians like shit is more complicated.

Yet it seems to old fashioned empire building and resource acquisition with religion used as an excuse by some. The pretense is not the holocaust, but that the Torah and other documents 'prove' somehow that all that land is theirs and doesn't belong to the Palestinians. The facts are irrelevant to that matter. Let's not let the truth get in the way of a good story that benefits the self.

It would also be inaccurate to assume that this is a position shared by all Israelis or Jews. It is an extreme view

held by extremists, some of whom hold power in the Israeli parliament, and spew propaganda to other Israelis, denying facts to them as well.

In many ways it has nothing to do with the holocaust or religion and everything to do with the age old story of greedy SOB's with guns.



[Fredrick Toben](#), retired teacher

In reply to [Emma Anderson](#)

Someone just sent the following to me - it raises interesting issues that you, Emma, may reflect upon, as I just did:

-----

#### **Chutzpah on steroids**

**By: The Irish Savant (sent by Invictus) on: 18.02.2013 [13:43 ] (64 reads)**

In a visit to Turkey some time ago Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres announced that "We reject attempts to create a similarity between the Holocaust and the Armenian allegations. Nothing similar to the Holocaust occurred. What the Armenians went through is a tragedy, but not genocide." Armenians were understandably outraged. "We protest this assertive stance by the top diplomat of a nation whose sons and daughters themselves lived through the Holocaust."

Peres' sentiments were then reiterated by Israel's ambassador to Armenia Georgia Rivka Cohen, who said the Genocide could not be compared with the Holocaust™. This resulted in further public outrage and a diplomatic row between Armenia and Israel. The Israeli Government not only validated Cohen's remarks, but went on to suggest that 'this issue requires extensive research and an academic dialogue based on testimonials and proof'.

At which point I collapsed. Awakened by the thud, Lady Savant found me on the floor, quivering uncontrollably, my finely chiseled lips flecked with foam, my eyes staring wildly into space. It was only after the administration of copious quantities of Ritalin that I could finally be induced to approach my computer again. And there it was. It had not been a bad dream.

Yes, the Israelis are saying that claims of a genocide, before being accepted, must be supported by 'extensive research and an academic dialogue based on testimonials and proof'.

OK, one more time: The Israelis are saying that claims of a genocide, before being accepted, must be supported by 'extensive research and an academic

dialogue based on testimonials and proof'.

Meanwhile, as every schoolboy knows, for most European countries and in the Anglosphere generally, not only does the Holocaust™ claim not require 'extensive research and an academic dialogue based on testimonials and proof', but anyone looking for such a thing will find himself up before the courts in double quick time, probably jailed, and certainly have his career ruined.

I leave you with this from the judge at a recent Denial Trial in Germany. Judge Meinerzhagen summing up, said it was "completely irrelevant whether the holocaust really did happen or did not happen. It is illegal to deny it in Germany, and that is all that counts in court."

Remind me again, what language gives us the word chutzpah?

<http://irishsavant.blogspot.com/?zx=6b21ef80116db4c0>

- found at: <http://www.iraq-war.ru/article/286172>

=====



[Emma Anderson](#), Artist and Science Junkie

In reply to [Fredrick Toben](#)

Simon Peres, based on that statement, is an extremist buffoon who has denied a holocaust event against the Armenians.

I don't know how this relates to Palestine because Armenia and Palestine are different countries in different parts of the world.

What I do get the impression is that you seem to be implying, or the Irish Savant seems to be implying, that there was no proof of the WW2 Holocaust and therefore that Peres, in addition to being an extremist buffoon, is also a hypocrite.

The problem with that is that there was a holocaust in WW2 and it is a known known, there was evidence in support of it.

There is also evidence to show that the Armenians experienced a genocidal event as well.

Denying either is deeply offensive, because it is inaccurate.



[Chris Harper](#), Engineer

In reply to [Fredrick Toben](#)

Frederick,

If you truly believe that the Shoah has not been studied extensively, exhaustively and excruciating academic



detail you are living in a fantasy land. I find your views no more pleasant and honest than the repulsive and dishonest Israel hatred that some here are starting to spew.

Might I suggest you start your reading with "The Scourge of the Swastika", by Lord Russel of Liverpool, and move on from there.

You had my sympathy at the time you were banged up, for being banged up, but if the above comment about research is the best you can do don't imagine that I want to hear any more of your drivel.

 [Emma Anderson](#), Artist and Science Junkie

In reply to [Chris Harper](#)

I second your sentiment, Mr. Harper.

\*\*\*

**The following response was deleted on grounds it offended against community standards! Töben was not given a right of reply-natural justice that Harper and Anderson received two-fold!**

=====

 [Fredrick Toben](#), retired teacher

In reply to Emma Anderson

Ms Anderson and Mr Harper - here we go. Your use of 'drivel' and your statement about my having had your sympathy indicates to me you are sliding into the usual morass of character assassination and you are beginning to suffer the onset of failure of moral nerve.

I don't need your sympathy because that is using emotional blackmail rather than reason! I'm not into that kind of shonky business. What I state about matters 'Holocaust-Shoah' is on the public record, which negates your above statement...

Read more

Reply

Ms Anderson and Mr Harper - here we go. Your use of 'drivel' and your statement about my having had your sympathy indicates to me you are sliding into the usual morass of character assassination and you are beginning to suffer the onset of failure of moral nerve.

I don't need your sympathy because that is using emotional blackmail rather than reason! I'm not into that kind of shonky business. What I state about matters 'Holocaust-Shoah' is on the public record, which negates your above statement re extensive research.

Let me put it clearly by quoting Robert Faurisson's challenge to the Holocaust-Shoah believers, which still awaits someone to fulfill it: 'show me or draw me the homicidal gas chambers at Auschwitz!'

Think carefully about this challenge, and when both you Mr Harper and Ms Anderson think you can meet this physical challenge, of presenting a physical fact and not mere words to prove your assertion, then call a public meeting and present the evidence for all to see.

In all fairness I should reveal that I made enquiries to the US Holocaust Museum but received a negative reply that stated there was no original gas chamber available and hence none was displayed at the museum in Washington. And on this note I shall exit, again, from this discussion. Under our current Racial Discrimination Act you would have the power to take me to court and complain that my writing hurts your feelings. That was all it needed to have me sentenced to three months in a South Australian prison in 2009.

Think on these things.

=====

 [Emma Anderson](#), Artist and Science Junkie

In reply to [Fredrick Toben](#)

The only person here doing damage to your reputation is yourself.

Also, why would you assume I would be able or willing to go to HREOC (or whatever the acronym is these days)?

I am neither Jewish, Armenian, German or Palestinian. You have not made a racial slur against me. I don't have the legal right to sue you.

I will however, call you a troll and leave it at that. Feed yourself from now on.

 [Chris Harper](#), Engineer

In reply to [Fredrick Toben](#)

Mr Toben,

That I could take you to court under the Racial Discrimination Act is true. If we were in Victoria I could also mount a complaint under the badly misnamed Human Rights Act. That this is the case I find not just disgraceful in this, my home country, but an unutterably foul state of affairs.

However, as I wrote elsewhere: The issue of free speech is about the state dictating what is or is not acceptable, it is not about free people freely expressing contempt for contemptible behaviour.

So, when I tell you that I find you contemptible please take me at face value.

Emma,

Under the repugnant laws which seek to control opinion in this country, both actual and proposed, you don't have to be the target of unpleasant opinion. You merely need to claim that you, personally, are offended at hearing it expressed.

 [Emma Anderson](#), Artist and Science Junkie

In reply to [Chris Harper](#)

Yeah, well, in that case, the law goes too far.

**Töben comments:**

That hypocrisy, dishonesty and fear pervades the Holocaust-Shoah taboo topic is to be expected among the ignorant but not among those who claim to be academically schooled to handle dissenting voices, which is the essence of academic-scientific debate. But much like the global warming/climate change debate, all too often there is a personal financial interest at stake that through fear causes individuals to be compliant. Such is the fear of legal persecution.

For further clarification on the Assange case view Anthony Lawson's excellent video:

**Sex, Lies, Iran, Israel and WikiLeaks—Revisited**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TheJPboU4c&feature=email>

## The Deportation of Australia's Senator Nick Xenophon from Malaysia

On the morning of 16 February 2013 Nick Xenophon, federal Senator for South Australia, landed at Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur Airport

where a rude shock awaited him. Immigration officials refused him entry to Malaysia on grounds that he was a security risk.

This Independent senator from Adelaide intended to meet up with opposition leader, Anwar Ibrahim, special Minister of State Mohammed

Nazri, and with various members of 'Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections'. It appears what influenced his detention and deportation that evening back to Australia was Xenophon having last year taken part in an unauthorised pro-democracy protest meeting, which enabled the Malaysians to declare him a security risk.

This Australian Independent politician who moved from state politics to national politics on the 'no-pokies ticket' in 2008 seeks to monitor the pending Malaysian election process that has kept the Malay-dominated political party in power since gaining independence from Britain in 1957.

Xenophon claims that human rights are likely to be abused at the forthcoming election especially for

individuals belonging to the other three major ethnic groups, the Chinese, Indigenous and Indians.

What I find interesting is that Xenophon is now loudly protesting his innocence, yet when I met him after I had been released from being held in London in October-November 2008, he rejoiced and informed me I deserved it and that I should obey the law.

His proclamation about worrying whether any of Malaysia's voters will have their human rights abused during the election period is farfetched and fanciful. That Malaysia is rich in resources and still internationally a reasonably independent prosperous multi-cultural and multi-ethnic Muslim kingdom, which has excellent relations with the Islamic Republic

of Iran, is more of a bother for Senator Xenophon and his group of concerned western-styled 'democratic lawmakers' than he would personally care to admit.

**Fredrick Töben**

**Adelaide**

**19 February 2013**

\*\*\*

[toben@toben.biz](mailto:toben@toben.biz)

**Subject: Fredrick Töben comments: This man rejoiced at my London detention**

- 1. Senator Nick Xenophon rejoiced at my 1 October 2008 London detention;**
- 2. He does not care about my human rights in matters free expression;**
- 3. His democratic model is that of Greek democracy, which co-existed with slavery!**

## **Senator Nick Xenophon in Malaysian custody over pro-democracy meetings being deported**

**By Sunday Mail Editor David Penberthy and Brad Crouch, with AAP**

**[adelaidenow](#), February 16, 2013:04PM**

**SENATOR Nick Xenophon has been advised he will be deported from Kuala Lumpur tonight and arrive in Melbourne at 9.20am tomorrow.**

He plans to hold a press conference upon his arrival into Melbourne aboard Air Asia flight D7 214, which is departing Kuala Lumpur at 11.30pm.



**Nick Xenophon in the holding area in Kuala Lumpur airport after he was detained under police guard. Source: adelaidenow**

Meanwhile, Australian politicians have called off a visit to Malaysia as officials seek the release of Senator Xenophon from Malaysian custody. The group, comprising South Australian Senator Xenophon,

Liberal MP Mal Washer, Nationals Senator John Williams and ALP MP Steve Georganas, were planning an unofficial visit to Kuala Lumpur ahead of Malaysia's upcoming elections. They were to meet opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, as well as Malaysia's minister in charge of parliamentary affairs Mohammed Nazri and members of the group Bersih, the Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections.

Senator Xenophon, who arrived ahead of the others, proceeded no further than the immigration line. He is being held in an interrogation room at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, which has a series of adjoining cells holding female prisoners. He has been told he is not allowed to make telephone calls and is not even allowed to go to the bathroom without a police guard.

Senator Xenophon managed to make a call to The Sunday Mail when he was left unattended in the interrogation room. "I am effectively a prisoner here," Senator Xenophon said. "I'm being held in an area with all these holding cells

which are full of women. They have basically told me I am an enemy of the state. They are trying to get me on the next plane out of here and back home." Senator Xenophon used his contacts to get a text message to the Australian High Commission in KL.

Foreign Minister Bob Carr said High Commissioner Miles Kupa was with Senator Xenophon now, seeking his immediate release. "Preliminary reports suggest the detention is under Malaysia's national security laws. Our High Commissioner, Miles Kupa has now made direct contact with Senator Xenophon at the airport and is seeking his release. Mr Kupa is also urgently pursuing an explanation from Malaysian authorities regarding the reasons for this detention. Australia's concerns have been raised with Malaysia's Foreign Minister, the Minister for Home Affairs and the Malaysian High Commissioner to Australia. Their support is requested in securing Senator Xenophon's swift release from custody. Senator Xenophon's detention is a surprising and disappointing act from a

country with which Australia routinely maintains strong diplomatic relations."

After he landed this morning the anti-pokies Senator joined the customs queue but was told there were "irregularities" with his passport. He was then taken away by the immigration officials to the guarded area where he was told that the Malaysian authorities knew of his stance on human rights in Malaysia and his itinerary for this week.

Senator Xenophon was scheduled to meet with pro-democracy and Opposition MPs - yet oddly he had also been granted a meeting with a senior Government MP, the Special Minister of State. "I was even meeting members of the Government, I mean, the whole situation is ridiculous, we are meant to be the closest of friends with Malaysia," he said. "We are meant to be having a people swap deal on asylum seekers but so far it looks like the only person being swapped is me."

Senator Xenophon believes that a recent article he wrote for Fairfax newspapers in January, which was critical of human rights in Malaysia, may have emboldened the authorities to deny him entry. Last year he was also unwittingly caught up in a 25,000-strong democracy protest in KL [where he was tear-gassed.](#)

Senator Williams said the delegation, planned two months ago, would not now proceed. "I have just spoken to Mal Washer and told him that I'd be pulling out. I have spoken to (deputy opposition leader) Julie Bishop and I sent Nick Xenophon a text message saying we'd be pulling out of the trip and he just replied OK," he told ABC television.

Senator Williams said he thought it better now to let the dust settle and visit later in the year. He said

Senator Xenophon had visited Malaysia on other occasions and wanted a bipartisan Australian delegation to conduct a low profile visit, meeting MPs and members of the election commission. "Nick Xenophon asked me and I have a lot of respect for Nick. We are pretty good mates. When he has a problem, you'd expect that the problem would be genuine," he said. "Nick said there's some problem over there. He'd like us to go over and visit."

Senator Williams said he did not believe a protest by Australia would help. "I don't think pouring petrol on a fire would help anything. Obviously we need to build some relationships there as far as Senator Xenophon goes, but I don't think it's a big issue," he said. "They have their reasons why they stopped him at the airport and I'm sure in time these can be talked through. It will settle down in a few weeks time and we'll look at whether we can make a visit then."

Associate Professor Clinton Fernandes of the International and Political Studies Program at the University of NSW said the Malaysian Government was worried about Senator Xenophon because he "provides the public with an international voice about problems with the electoral system." Senator Xenophon and Dr Fernandes were part of a 2012 International Fact-Finding Mission on Elections in Malaysia, whose report was critical of the Government and which called for electoral reform. "Senator Xenophon and a delegation of Australian parliamentarians were going to Malaysia to meet with politicians, the Malaysian Bar Council and the Electoral Commission to discuss electoral reform outlined in that report," he said. "There is no doubt the reason he is being deported is because the report was critical of the electoral

system - for example it showed a leading government figure has an electorate with just 7000 voters while the Deputy Opposition Leader has an electorate with 100,000 constituents. "There is a class of people who have never lost power since Malaysia was formed and they are now worried as the youthful population is calling for democratic changes and they don't know what to do about it. There has been no violence so the government can't call them terrorists and crack down on them, there have been no agent provocateurs to provide a trigger for an armed crackdown. Senator Xenophon's presence provides them with an international voice about problems with the electoral system, so they want him out."

Dr Fernandes said Senator Xenophon was not at risk of harm from Malaysian authorities but said they wanted him out of the country to avoid a focus for discontent, as elections must be held by June. He noted Senator Xenophon has annoyed the Government by giving copies of the Fact Finding Mission on Election in Malaysia to every diplomatic mission base in Canberra to ensure the wider international community was aware of electoral issues in the nation.

The fact finding mission was conducted by international observer group with representatives from India, Pakistan, Germany, Indonesia, the Philippines as well as Senator Xenophon and Dr Fernandes.

Senator Xenophon visited the nation in April last year when he was teargassed by riot police breaking up a mass peaceful demonstration in Kuala Lumpur demanding democratic reforms.

<http://www.news.com.au/national/s-a-senator-nick-xenophon-in-custody-in-malaysia-over-meetings-with-pro-democracy-mps-i/story-fndo4dzn-1226579351300>