

WAKE UP AUSTRALIA DOMESTIC TERRORISM CAN HAPPEN HERE

A VIEW FROM THE PAVEMENT



A fragmented, frightened and fearful Australia

The Voice from the Pavement Peter Adamis 20 April 2013

The USA, Great Britain, Israel, France, Germany, Japan, and Australia small extent have experienced terrorism in one form or another. The world has not been the same since 9/11 and the western world as we knew it back then changed forever. The recent bombing by terrorists in Boston is a timely example of how terrorism can strike in the most unlikely of places. The war on terror begins at home. Law enforcement agencies will continue to evolve and will require becoming more militant in their approach when dealing with applied terrorist activities, especially if the terrorism is home grown. In the past intelligence agencies would monitor the activities of interested individuals and organisations that may have ideologies, values and lifestyles that differ from the Australian way of life.

Today, Australia is undergoing a massive development in regards to its own identity having to absorb over 100 different cultures from numerous nationalities and such one wonders whether any one of those cultures may decide one day to resort to terrorist activities. That is not to say that the current policies are not appropriate, but one wonders whether those agencies responsible for the security of the nation conduct and carry out scenarios in real life to provide solutions in the event of a home grown terrorist attack and not rely solely on the experiences of other nation. Australia needs to be proactive in its own defence and take action that will create and instill confidence within the Australian society that our security services are adequately prepared to meet any exigencies

Although realistically speaking it is doubtful that this would occur on Australians soil given the security policies and monitoring organizations dedicated to identifying early

individuals and/or organisations that may be of interest to Australian law enforcement and intelligence gathering institutions. Suffice to say, Australia is well placed physically in regards to its neighbors and sufficiently distant from any recalcitrant nation that has concepts of creating havoc on Australian soil. However having said that, does not necessarily mean that it is immune from any attack from its neighbors and/or nation that has designs on making Australia their place of operations.

If that was to occur, it would mean that a buildup of hostile diplomatic rhetoric, hostile intentions being leveled at Australia by third party nations that are aligned with recalcitrant nation, threats of a nuclear war, failure of embargos, diplomatic meetings at the local or at the UN levels coming to nothing, a trade war, a food war which is more likely and/or a gradual infiltration of Australian shores by an influx of refugees as a result of a home nation crisis, crop failures, famine or natural disasters. These are but a few of the scenarios that could elevate the security of Australian security organizations to take extraordinary steps to maintain law and order as well safe guard the interests of Australia and its assets.

Current federal government policies and procedures do not appear to be working effectively and one wonders whether after all this time in federal government that a coherent nationwide policy that governs terrorism, migration, refugees, cultural identity and security.

The federal government as the main stakeholder in securing the interests of the nation should embolden our law enforcement, and intelligence gathering services with the appropriate material assets and funds to actively monitor current and future services with the aim of identifying, preventing, apprehending and securing vital assets that may be seen as attractive if not nuisance and mischievous targets to potential home grown terrorists.

There may be six categories of terrorist activities that would disrupt the daily lives of Australians'.

- (1) The first being the disabling of services and assets through physical, and electronic means.
- (2) The second being destruction of transport, communications, food supplies.
- (3) The third being the assassination, kidnapping of diplomats and political figures along with the killing of civilians at educational institutions.
- (4) The fourth and last being of a biological nature that includes poisoning of our natural water resources, food supplies and infecting the population with infectious diseases.
- (5) A fifth potential scenario is of feeding vulnerable young Australians with their distorted message, like a cult is one of the categories which can be viewed as the most dangerous and likely to be happening right now. These messages have the potential

to turn our own people against us.

- (6) The sixth being an unidentified band of external belligerents that have entered Australia illegally through our unguarded shores and create havoc in various parts of Australia. These small groups of five to ten, acting independently of each other creating havoc in major cities or roaming freely in the Australians outback.

Australia does not have sufficient manpower and resources to meet with such exigencies and relies heavily on its ability to foresee such acts of terrorism. What these abilities are is anyone's guess and one hopes that our intelligence agencies have been provided with the necessary funds and material assets to be proactive in this area.

What is stopping a home grown terrorist from poisoning our water supplies, planting explosives at our service and utility areas, such as gas, electricity, telephone, radio, internet petrol refineries, main bridges, tunnels, airports, transport and many other services that we take for granted? Terrorists do not have to physically be in situ to create havoc, for they could attack an organization remotely or by electronic means using the internet to disable a network or services such as the hospitals, ambulance service, Paramilitary organizations that rely on electronic devices.

Imagine the impact on a society (insulated from the world's problems) by a few strategically placed explosive devices designed to instill fear and uncertainty into the population. A fear of not feeling safe, a fear of unwarranted attacks, a fear unruly mobs or extremists groups on both sides of the political spectrum. A mob mentality ignorant of foreign cultures and suspecting citizen's loyalties to Australia leads to violence and mayhem. Worse still imagine home grown terrorists attacking orphanages, schools, buses, sporting arenas, slaying innocent civilians, kidnapping members of government, and or retaining individuals and groups as hostages.

Politicians, Defence, law enforcement organisations and intelligence gathering institutions may scoff at the above scenarios, but scoffing and making a mockery of the above does not mean that it can never happen. No matter what systems are in place, whether it's a physical, electronic, satellite or Humint (human intelligence) gathering or monitoring; security systems are bound to fail if we as citizens are not vigilant and support our organisations responsible for our security. That is not say that we all become "dobbers, snitches, tell tales or fibs"; but rather take the mature and responsible road by taking an active interest in our own back yard and report to a central body anything that may be consider outside of the ordinary. Our security and law enforcement agencies cannot work alone and need every member of society to be an active participant in the defence of this country. Let's do the right thing expected of us.

If not already in place, Australia could well do with a coordinating body that encapsulates

all raw intelligence from law enforcement agencies as well as those security services overseas and on a domestic level and submit that intelligence into central or core catalogue of data.

Data that can be electronically analysed, categorized to identify potential threats that may require monitoring. This electronic means should include funds transfers, explosive materials, resources that may be used for explosive materials, thefts of weapons, chemicals, break-ins, criminal acts, whether electronic or of a physical nature and other recalcitrant or mischievous acts that may lead to the capture, apprehension of potential home grown terrorists and recalcitrant groups.

If that means that a federal body is set up to monitor, analyze, review and act upon reliable information that leads to an arrest long before the home grown terrorist suspects they are being monitored the better. If it can happen overseas, it can happen in this country. Gone are the days when we as Australians' could feel isolated from any potential aggressor, especially now in an uncertain world where every nation wants to become a nuclear nation; Iran, Pakistan, Israel, South Africa, North Korea, are but some of the smaller nations seeking to join if not already become a part of the nuclear family.

We as a nation need to look at ourselves and recognize that we as a nation have a new identity. An identity that embraces the values of the past, respect for the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we take for granted, support its institutions that helped create this nation, (rejecting the paradigms of a past era that have had questionable foundations). To integrate with today's generation's strength, knowledge, skills, mindset, resilience, tolerance and create an Australia that is united as one and not a conglomeration of small bodies whose interests may not lie in the wellbeing and security of this country we all call home.

As citizens we have the right to question the wisdom of our lawmakers who make decisions on our behalf. To question why additional funds during an election year, are being thrown at educational systems by robbing Peter to pay Paul so to speak, is anyone's guess. Why funds for Veterans superannuation have been stalled time after time. Why our border protection policies are failing to stem the tide of economic refugees. Why our Defence Force budgets are being curtailed to meet budget objectives. Why our citizens are falling through the welfare cracks whilst our lawmakers squabble like children at the highest levels of government. These questions are but the tip of the iceberg and are on everybody's lips. It's not a coincidence that right now Australians of the Baby Boomer era are smart enough to see through this ploy and one would wonder whether the current Federal government continues to enjoy the confidence of its people. Methinks not.

Disclaimer. This imaginative and thought provoking article is merely a “*View from the Pavement*”. The author relies heavily on domestic and international news media reports to create an awareness of potential harm that may arrive on our doorstep. Scenarios that he hopes never come to fruition or see the light of day. The author is a freelance journalist whose interest is of an Australian domestic nature given the terrorist acts throughout the free world and is not aligned with any government agencies.

We have the potential for greatness and to become a world power. Do we want “A fragmented, frightened and fearful Australia?” Methinks not? Therefore if “Prevention is the solution”, surely “Vigilance is the catch cry” for all Australians.



The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis is a (not for profit) Journalist/Commentator. He is a retired Australian military serviceman and an Industry organisational & Occupational (OHS) & Training Consultant whose interests are within the parameters of domestic and international political spectrum. He is an avid blogger and contributes to domestic and international community news media outlets as well as to local and Ethnic News. He holds a Bachelor of Adult Learning & Development (Monash), Grad Dip Occupational Health & Safety, (Monash), Dip. Training & Assessment, Dip Public Administration, and Dip Frontline Management. Contact via Email: abalinx@netspace.net.au or via Mobile: 0409965538