NO, ROBERT, IT WILL BE HYPOCRISY

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Category: Opinions

By Avedis Kevorkian, Philadelphia PA, 5 May 2008

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However, were Frost alive today, I am sure that he would agree with my long-held belief that hypocrisy will be the death of the world, and I am confident that he would probably add two more lines to his poem: "But from what I see of today's world/it will be hypocrisy." Yes, all right, I am no Robert Frost; but, then again, who is?

What has brought about these musing are a couple of recent reports which should have been front-page news in every newspaper, the featured story in every serious magazine, the lead story in every radio - and television-news broadcast.

I refer to the 569-page report from Human Rights Watch (HRW) of its study of the human-rights situation in more than 75 countries in which it found that "The US, the UK and other western nations are ignoring flawed or rigged elections in some countries for the sake of political convenience," and also to the report that the European Union's former attorney general for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Carla Del Ponte, in her recently-published autobiography, "The Hunt," indicates that if she had told the world the truth about the human-rights violations by the Kosovo Muslims against the Serbian Christians, Kosovo would not have been granted its independence.

HRW's primary target this year was what it views as the hypocrisy of western nations condemning democratic violations only when expedient.

"Rarely has democracy been so acclaimed yet so breached, so promoted yet so disrespected, so important yet so disappointing," HRW's executive director, Kenneth Roth, said in the report.

"It seems Washington and European governments will accept even the most dubious election so long as the 'victor' is a strategic or commercial ally," Roth said, calling the promotion of democracy "a softer and fuzzier alternative to defending human rights." The countries cited in the Report won't be listed here, but look around to see who America's "friends" are and ask if any of them are the kinds of governments under which you would want to live. If your answer is "No," then you know the countries discussed.

Among the crimes that Del Ponte now admits she knew about is how the present authorities of the independent Kosovo made money on trade of inner organs, taken out of the bodies of the kidnapped Serbs. According to Del Ponte, the leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army (among whom

is the present Prime Minister of the independent Kosovo, Hashim Tachi) committed atrocities, which are compared with the ones committed by Third Reich in the concentration camps. But, according to Del Ponte, prosecution of military criminals is tantamount to a political act. And, of course, we do not take a political stance regarding evil-doers, if they are our friends.

Recall the words of Jeane Kirkpatrick, America's Ambassador to the United Nations at the time, about General Galtieri, of Argentina, "He may be a bastard, but he is our bastard."

Interestingly, Del Ponte's book has come out after Kosovo independence--which, though a violation of the territorial integrity of Serbia, will not be a precedent for the independence of Artsakh, America insists. American foreign policy in these matters is driven by Ankara, and Ankara wants a Muslim country in Europe and eventually in the European Union and NATO, so Washington follows and declares that self-determination of peoples should apply in Serbia/Kosovo.

But, since Turkey doesn't want an independent Artsakh, the principle of territorial integrity of a country should apply in Azerbaijan, so Washington follows.

Many years ago, when I followed-up long correspondence with USELESSCO (as I call it) and spoke with the then Director General as to why his organization did nothing about the destruction by Turkey of Armenian culture and heritage in Turkey and Christian culture and heritage in occupied Cyprus, he replied "That would be provocative." What he meant, of course, was America would not approve any criticism of Turkey. When I asked if it were a Christian country destroying Muslim heritage what would his organization do, he walked away. His then Number Two, who was not party to the discussion but who was standing by, waited till his boss left, and said to me. "I'm with you." His successor has done nothing, either, but that is another subject.

It is obvious--at least to me--that hypocrisy is so pervasive that it is not even recognized as a vice and is accepted as the norm.

But it is not for nothing that the Litany from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer includes the following: "From all blindness of heart, from pride, vain-glory and hypocrisy. . .Good Lord deliver us."