We're extremely happy today because for twenty years the release of Lori Berenson has been a priority for the Office of the Americas. We have worked with her and her family for these two decades, and now we're happy to see her finally back home in New York with her six year old son Salvador.

I'd like to tell you a little bit about that experience, because it is the experience of political prisoners in the United States and all around the world. We assembled a group, so of whom will be familiar to our audience. It was set up by the Office of the Americas, and I organized it. It was with the Reverend Walker, Director of Pastors for Peace. He was an international Martin Luther King who did great work internationally for peace. Amy Goodman, host of Democracy Now, was with us. She brought into the prison a recording device, I'm not sure the prison authorities were aware of the recording equipment. With us also was Kristin Gardner, a classmate and friend of Lori Berenson, and Annie Byrd, director of Guatemala Partners, and Patricia Todd, a librarian.

We arrived in Lima, and our first stop was to meet with US Ambassador. He told us that we should not go to visit Lori. He referred to her as if she were some kind of terrorist. He said, do not go there, we don't want to offend President Fujimori, who has of course since been indicted and convicted. "We don't want to offend Fujimori because he has give the US permission to have a military base in Peru. That makes him a good guy."

Well, we made the plans, as you might imagine, to visit Lori, and all the advice we received was negative. So we planned it carefully. Then the Peruvian Embassy in Washington requested the names of everyone who was going on the visit. They advised everyone on the delegation to speak to the Peruvian Ministry of Justice in Lima. And the US Embassy in Lima said we should not come at all and expressed the opinion that we would not be admitted under any circumstances. So we proceeded as planned. Upon arrival, we presented ourselves to the US embassy and met with officials. Annie Byrd presented a written request to Col Agosto Duarte, director of the National Penitentiary asking permission for the delegation to visit Lori. After hours of waiting and a follow up phone call, Annie was told that a decision had not been made. And of course the ambassador told us not to go to Ariquipa. So our delegation proceeded to Ariqupa early the following morning. We hired a vehicle and drove to the prison. At each of four military checkpoints we presented to only authorization we had, which was a letter requesting our admission to the prison that was written by a Peruvian congressman.

When we arrived at the prison, we were instantly admitted and taken to the director of the women's section. Within moments, we were admitted to the prison guard and we were greeted by Lori Berenson. We sat in a circle with her for two hours. How did that happen? Her parents had not been allowed to come in a speak with her. They could only speak through a grill. Well, things happen, very strange things. Janet Reno, the AG, was in Lima regarding a visit with the OAS. So they knew that she was there, and the military officials at the prison asked me, "who are you?" I said, Oficina de las Americas. And they said, "es la comission." So they thought we were members of the Organization of American States. So they let us in. There was one little coincidence here, the librarian, Patricia Todd, looked something like Janet Reno. So we got into the prison by surprise.

The sad thing was then to see the condition Lori was in. Her complexion was red, her hands were purple, her eyesight was failing, she had poor digestion, and we felt that a crime had been committed against her at the time of her arrest. She had two articles about women in Peru. She had also interviewed four members of the Peruvian Congress. She told us how she was
arrested while riding on a bus. She was taken to the secret police, handcuffed, and taken to the location of an active shoot out with some RTA rebels. She was taken to the secret police headquarters, interrogated at length, and told that if she made the proper accusations, she would be rewarded, but if she failed to cooperate, she'd be handed over to the military, where she would be tortured and raped.

As a result of her non-cooperation, she was slapped into a filthy cell on December 28, 1995 - friends, that's twenty years ago. She shared the cell space with Lucinda Rojas, who was in extreme pain. Lucinda had five bullet wounds from the above mentioned shoot out. She was using a colostomy bag. A doctor looked at her and said, I don't want to deal with the colostomy. Rats were everywhere. She remained with Lucinda and endured this torture for eleven days. Lori was dragged from the cell in complete disarray to be presented to the media of Peru. She was righteously angry and had reason to be frightened. She was told she had one minute to speak and had to scream because there was not microphone. With great force, she spoke about the institutional violence in Peru and her love of the Peruvian people. Her statement was viciously misinterpreted by the Peruvian media as proof that she was a subversive.

Further criminal action against Lori was taken by a hooded thug, purportedly a military judge. A loaded gun was held to her head and she was "convicted" of treason. This was a classic example of accusatory law. No evidence was given against her, and she had no defense. After this brutal excuse for a trial, Lori was thrown into Yanamayo Prison, 12,750 feet above sea level. It should be noted that these Peruvian prisons are modern instruments of torture built in the 1990s with barred windows open to the freezing Andean mountain air. Sick prisoners can quickly die of hypothermia.

The very day that the OAS had a hearing about Lori Berenson she was removed for Yanamayo prison in a public relations effort to demonstrate concern for her health. She was delivered to another prison at 7500 feet above sea level.

When we returned to Lima the following day and met with the US Ambassador again and found him disturbed an angry that we were admitted to the prison. His references to Lori were blatantly adversarial, as are every piece of correspondence we've seen from the State Department regarding her. Guilt by association. He referred to Lori's parents as "spitting in the face of President Fujimori" because they held signs asking for the release of their daughter when Fujimori visited his daughter in Boston. If the ambassador had shown as much respect for Lori Berenson as he showed for President Fujimori, she would have had her rightful freedom.

Observing the globalization of the world's economy, Lori Berenson is in the vanguard of the necessary humanity which much join this new world order. We're well past the era of 19th century isolationism, where everyone's expected to confine their interests to their own nation. We live on a small planet, which is in grave danger. This is the era when US citizens should identify human rights abuses in Peru, and Peruvians should identify homelessness in the US. Only in this way will be we able to implement the Universal Declaration of Human Right. The time is long past for a fair trial for Lori Berenson. A "fair" trial would be that Lori Berenson would remain in Peru for six more years, and then be presented to the judicial system which the US State Department identified as corrupt. A crime has been committed against Lori Berenson by the Peruvian government. The State Department of the United States has failed in its duty to protect the human rights of its citizens. The US High Commission for Human Rights considers Lori's imprisonment to be arbitrary detention. The Inter-American Commission for Human
Rights, the OAS, have agreed to give a formal petition against the government of Peru. Amnesty International has issued repeated urgent action bulletins regarding Lori's unjust imprisonment. It's incumbent on the US congress to meet its obligations under 22 USC 1732, to come to the aid of an American citizen wrongfully held in a foreign country. Lori's health was rapidly deteriorating, she must be released from that hellhole now.

Now, friends, that was my testimony given to the Congressional Human Right Caucus in Washington. It was chaired by congressman Mantos, and our visit was in March of 1999. That testimony to congress was given in June of the same year. We're very happy that she has finally been released. It's been one of our major projects for the Office of the Americas over many years, together with many other political prisoners. We rejoice with her and her family. Her parents have just been absolutely amazing, going back and forth to Peru constantly to check on her, to make sure that her health was at least tolerable. Their example is truly awesome to observe.

Well, mass shootings in the US are a reflection of our aggressive foreign policy and our perpetual war. The congress, now with a 7% approval rating, seeks funds for their campaigns. They pander to the NRA to receive funds. Our representatives must act in direct opposition to the vast majority of our citizens. We're not talking here about 51%. We're talking about a consensus as high as 90%.

They don't represent the people of the United States in the consensus of their example. They dance a dance of death for money. I'm not aware of a single social science document approving our gun laws - except, perhaps, one written by the NRA. The second amendment has nothing to do with this ongoing mass murder. The second amendment offers no opposition to the licensing of every single weapon in the US. This daily treachery cries out for the memorable revolutionary slogan: Taxation without representation is tyranny. Congress says, we don't care what you want. In their hearts, every legislator knows that the citizens are right and they are engaged in political prostitution. What the NRA does domestically, the pentagon does internationally. The people of the world crave peace, just as our citizens do. As Eisenhower said, we ought to let them have it. People want peace so much, we ought to let them have it. He knew that our war department joined arms with weapons producers and have made us the greatest arms merchant in world history. We throw 300 million guns out to our people, and weapons of mass destruction to every blood thirsty dictatorship on the planet. Take Saudi Arabia. The Saudis pay us for cluster bombs to rain on the poorest country in the middle east, Yemen. And these illegal weapons blow the heads off Yemeni children. And then, with great hypocrisy, we feign shock that certain terrorists cut off heads.

We refuse to be ashamed. Any child in Japan can tell you why they have such a low murder rate.

So someone came up with the idea that we're fighting a war against terror. But we have been using terror continuously since the end of WWII. We should remember that the pentagon has no right to consider itself a lexicon. Aggressive war is our continuous crime, and the ultimate act of terrorism. It is our ongoing crime against humanity. The CIA knows this, the military knows this, the president knows this, but tragically, decent people throughout the world find it almost impossible to believe that arms makers would promote wars, the killing of our young people, and the massive killing of children when some purported enemy won't privatize oil. This is why Dorothy Day, who was cited by Pope Francis during his recent visit, referred to this "rotten system." The profiteers are promoting that false brand of patriotism, the last refuge of
scoundrels. Patriotism and the bastardization of religion are a dangerous mix which can easily destroy the planet.

The guns of San Bernadino and the guns of the planet have their origin in the very complex that frightened General Ike. It also frightened Abe Lincoln when he discovered how many people were getting rich on the Civil War. There are some well known people called liberals and progressives who are trying to describe which will be the best kind of war for us. This is really pathetic. It's like talking about football games. They whine, what else can we do? And they offer us the bifurcation between small and large wars. This one or that one? Let's join Russia in war. Let's go it alone. Hold on, friends. Bifurcation is one of the classic fallacies in the field of logic. You tell people there are two possibilities when there are 250,000. So the time has come to make the changes necessary in international law. We have trashed the structure of the UN for 70 years. It is time that we used it the way it was designed to be used, and we should realize that peace talks are going on in Vienna. And we should support that.

We should look back, if we can, at history. Really, if we were capable of studying the Crusades, it would be stunning to see what is taking place in reverse. The Christians wanted to create Christendom. But they took it upon themselves to attempt to kill all the Jews and Islamic people in the world. And they did it in a gruesome, bloody fashion. Killing men, women and children. They wanted to create an international Christian Caliphate, if you will. And they failed. And this one will fail. They all fail until we see one race on the planet, the human race. If it has a future, there will be no ethnic or racial boundaries. I've never heard of successful religious states. They've all be failures. I've never heard of a successful ethnic state, they don't exist. I've never heard of a successful racial state. Why? Because you're building your state on what is called an accident, and accident is something that is not important. A white Honda is a Honda. A black Honda is a Honda. The color is an accident. We've been building states in this way, and they all fail. They have no future.

So, here we are in the midst of possibilities of even another war - it certainly is something that should frighten us. Chomsky is telling us:

The "war on terror" has now taken the form of a full-on global war campaign. Meanwhile, the actual causes of the rise and spread of murderous organizations such as ISIS remain conveniently ignored. In fact, Russia has been waging its own "war on terror" since the collapse of the Soviet state. At the same time, close allies of the US, like Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey, are providing either direct or indirect support to ISIS, but this reality is also conveniently ignored by the Western forces fighting international terrorism. Only Russia dared recently to label Turkey as "accomplices of terrorists," after Turkey shot down a Russian warplane for having allegedly violated Turkish airspace. (For the record, Turkish fighter jets have been violating Greek airspace with great frequency for years, violating it 2,244 times in 2014 alone.)

We are living a lie. As Chomsky says, Obama's Drone Assassination Campaign is the most extensive global terror campaign the world has ever seen. Together with him, Edward S Herman, The Real Terror Network. It's remarkable that Noam Chomsky and Edward Herman's notion, which goes back at least to the 1980s, that the U.S. government participates in 'wholesale terrorism' is so rarely invoked in progressive, to say nothing of mainstream, discussions of 'terrorism,' even as many note hypocrisies like Christian and Muslim suspects being treated quite differently.” See: “Noam Chomsky: Obama's Drone Assassination Program

“This massive oversight obscures all discussions of terrorism, as the elephant in the room of U.S. government violence is not meaningfully discussed. Under those conditions, discussions are not going to lead to solutions.

It's remarkable that Noam Chomsky and Edward Herman’s notion, which goes back at least to the 1980s, that the U.S. government participates in ‘wholesale terrorism’ is so rarely invoked in progressive, to say nothing of mainstream, discussions of ‘terrorism,’ even as many note hypocrisies like Christian and Muslim suspects being treated quite differently.” See: “Noam Chomsky: Obama’s Drone Assassination Program Is ‘The Most Extensive Global Terrorism Campaign The World Has Yet Seen,’” and “The Real Terror Network,” by Edward S. Herman; see below for excepts.

“This massive oversight obscures all discussions of terrorism, as the elephant in the room of U.S. government violence is not meaningfully discussed. Under those conditions, discussions are not going to lead to solutions.

“As I write, there’s endless media discussion along the lines of ‘Police have not identified a motive for the shooting. They have not ruled out terrorism.’ (NPR) But terrorism is not a motive. It's a tactic to peruse a political motive or goal, like to dominate the Mideast (an apparent U.S. government motive) or violently coerce the people of the U.S. to stop their government from dominating the Mideast (an apparent al-Qaeda motive).

“Nor should the word ‘radicalized’ be demonized. Radicalized can and should mean to gain a greater political understanding, to see root causes of problems; it’s antithetical to someone who decides meaningful solutions lay in slaughtering 14 civilians.

“Restrictions on information often seem designed to make officialdom appear prescient, or at least have that effect. For example, a name of one of the suspects, Syed Farook (or, rather, a mangled form of it) was mentioned on Twitter at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday — some seven hours before it was made public by officialdom and major media, but well before President Obama suggested — apparently for the first time — that people on the quite problematic no-fly list should be particularly restricted from buying guns.”

DAVID SWANSON, davidcnswanson@gmail.com, @davidcnswanson
Swanson’s books include War Is A Lie and When the World Outlawed War. His most recent piece is “War with Russia or with ISIS: What ever happened to peace?”

He said today: “One of the least likely causes of death for people to fear in the United States is violence, and among the types of violence that could cause your death one of the least likely is terrorist blowback from U.S. wars in Western Asia. More likely than that is violence from the homegrown (if sometimes trained in foreign wars) rightwing, or violence from homegrown (if sometimes trained in Israel) police. One of the most likely causes of death in a nation being ‘liberated’ or having recently been ‘liberated’ by the U.S. military (Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan) is violence. And among the types of violence that could cause your death there, some of the most likely involve U.S. weaponry.
“The same weapons profiteering that many in the United States struggle to oppose in efforts to ban or regulate guns at home drives much of the killing in the world to which we often pay far less attention. By last count, 79 percent of weapons shipped to Middle Eastern nations were from the United States. Then you have to add gifts to ‘moderates,’ and the weapons in the hands of the U.S. military itself. We've armed our disgruntled employees and kicked them when they were down by stripping away services to pay for wars. We've armed the oil-rich Middle East and bombed and occupied people’s countries. Thomas Piketty points to economic inequality in the Middle East as a cause of violence. I would add that the violence is heavily armed by someone. I would point to the same pair of problems in the United States, and point the finger of blame at the same government. The fact that the U.S. media doesn't make these connections does not, of course, mean that angry Americans haven't learned from their government's foreign policy that the way to handle grievances is to kill lots of people.”

On November 14, countries in the International Syria Support Group that met in Vienna included the United States, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Iran. They agreed to push for political negotiation between opposition forces and representatives of the government of President Bashar Assad by January 1, to be followed an immediate UN monitored cease fire.

Now, why isn't this on the front pages every day? We have to urge our president and secretary of state to support all diplomatic means to ensure implementation of the cease fire in Syria by January 1. The next session in the international Syria peace talks is scheduled for December 18. It might be in New York City. Kerry said the cease fire between the Syrian government and opposition groups backed by Saudi Arabia and Turkey will significantly strengthen international efforts to confront Isis.

We have to do all we can to prevent war. We don't have to have another war, and we don't have to have regressive, pseudo-liberals talking about which is the best war. There's no such thing as a good war or a bad peace. I guess Ben Franklin said that. The stupidity goes on and they're going to play their little football game about how they would arrange their new war. Maybe they'll tell us where they're going to send the fragmentation bombs while they're doing it. This is beyond description. We have to deal with reality, we can't act as though what's taking place is not taking place.

What about cluster bombs? Here's Hanna al Ashan. She was injured along with her grandmother when unexploded cluster munitions fell around them in Yemen. So guess where they came from? We sold them to Saudi Arabia, and they use them to destroy the children of Yemen. And we wonder where terrorism is coming from in the US. That's every interesting. I think we should be able to see why people get angry. And sometimes, they return violence for violence.

MUSICAL BREAK

Well, we welcome Lori Berenson home, and we're so happy to have had that experience of visiting with her in prison and trying to generate international attention to her and testifying before congress on her behalf. Well, you may wonder about the headline in today's New York Times. They wonder what we might do, Washington is wondering what me might do to stop the terrorism in the United States. We're having one mass murder attack every day. Well, we might have some ideas. One might be to stop our terrorism abroad. That's according to the Dean of History in the United States, Howard Zinn: War is Terrorism. We've fought unending war since
the end of WWII. We have now tens of millions of dead. It's hard to count them. But why don't we go through the math. We're talking millions of people, and we wonder why thousands might be angry.

Let's take a look. Afghanistan. We lured the Soviet Union into invading that nation. It has friendly relations with its neighbor, which had a secular government. The Soviets feared that if that government became fundamentalist, this change would spill over into the Soviet Union. A million to two million Afghans died. We were the creators of Al Queda. We wanted to use religious opposition to the Soviet Union, and I think we got what we wanted.

Keeping to the As, we might say Angola. Well, indigenous armed struggle against Portuguese rule began in 1961. In 1977, the Angolan government was recognized by the UN. The US is one of the few nations that opposed this action. In 1986, we sent material assistance to an opposition group trying to overthrow the government. And even today, this struggle which has involved so many nations continues - we're in the A's, friends. These are unnecessary actions.

We can see Operation Condor throughout Central and South America. You saw recently the film Olvidados, which was written about this. That was our direction - Operation Condor. Destroying governments like that of Salvador Allende, a physician, a non-violent person, a democratic socialist. Destroyed. We supported torture. We had someone whose family had supposedly suffered in the holocaust, Henry Kissinger, directing the terror, turning the government over to a member of the Nazi Lodge of Chile. Pinochet, who we maintained in power. We weren't at all shocked by his behavior, his constant torture, summary execution. I wonder where terrorism comes from!

Bolivia. Hugo Banzer, the leader of the repressive regime in Bolivia. Some of us have seen this repression very close up. The US was disturbed when the previous leader nationalized the tin mines and distributed land to the indigenous peasants. That action was reversed by Hugo Banzer, the dictator we supported. He was trained at the US School of the Americas in Panama, and later at Fort Hood. Quite striking. We wonder why people are angry.

In regard to what happened with the general in Brazil, you might see Operation Condor of the CIA. Need we speak about Cambodia - and friends, we're only at the Cs - the US bombing of Cambodia had already been underway for several years in secret under the Johnson and Nixon administrations. But when Nixon began bombing in preparation for a land assault on Cambodia, it generated huge protests against the Vietnam War. The people were not supposed to be involved at all. We created a little anger, which was represented by Pol Pot, our parting gift to Cambodia. Compare Pol Pot and Isis. The anger of people can create vicious fanaticism. I don't know what kind of history they study at West Point.

Chad. An estimated 40,000 people were killed, 200,000 tortured by a government that was brought to power in 1982 with the help of CIA money and arms. He remained in power for 8 years.

Just a little summary of Chile: the CIA intervened in the elections of 1958 and the elections of 1964. Salvador was elected, they wanted to foment a military coup to stop his inauguration. But the army chief, Rene Schneider, opposed that action. The CIA then planned, along with some of the Chilean military, to assassinate Schneider. This plot failed, and the inauguration took place. President Nixon tried to destroy the economy by saying what our president is saying today to
Venezuela: "Make the economy scream." Is there anyone in our country who doesn't understand that we can do that - make other people's economies scream?

How about China? 900,000 Chinese died during the Korean War. How about Colombia? 67,000 deaths have occurred from the 60s to the present. Our support of Colombian state terrorism killed the vast majority of victims. And now Colombian mercenaries, drawn from the ranks of terrorist paramilitary forces, are being sent to the Middle East.

Where do terrorists come from? Sometimes they are very angry people.

How about Cuba? The Bay of Pigs invasion, 1961. Kennedy gave his life in order to save Cuba from being bombed into a parking lot. The fanatical General LeMay wanted to do that. Kennedy said, there are children there. And the military and CIA decided that spelled the end for Kennedy. When he was shot, his brother Bobby's first call was to the CIA. He asked, did you kill my brother?

Democratic Republic of the Congo. We could go back to King Leopold, 1879. The population was reduced by 10 million people. But we've been responsible for about a third that many deaths in the recent past. In 1960, the Congo became an independent state with Patrice Lumumbia, its first Prime Minister. He was assassinated by the CIA. Some say his murder was the responsibility of Belgium, but it's known that the CIA was planning to kill him. He was a very strong leader.

In 1960 the Congo became an independent state with Patrice Lumumba being its first prime minister. He was assassinated with the CIA being implicated, although some say that his murder was actually the responsibility of Belgium. But nevertheless, the CIA was planning to kill him. Before his assassination the CIA sent one of its scientists, Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, to the Congo carrying "lethal biological material" intended for use in Lumumba's assassination. This virus would have been able to produce a fatal disease indigenous to the Congo area of Africa and was transported in a diplomatic pouch.

Much of the time in recent years there has been a civil war within the Democratic Republic of Congo, fomented often by the U.S. and other nations, including neighboring nations.

In 1962, Juan Bosch became president of the Dominican Republic. He advocated such programs as land reform and public works programs. This did not bode well for his future relationship with the U.S., and after only 7 months in office, he was deposed by a CIA coup. In 1965 when a group was trying to reinstall him to his office President Johnson said, "This Bosch is no good." Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Mann replied "He's no good at all. If we don't get a decent government in there, Mr. President, we get another Bosch. It's just going to be another sinkhole." Two days later a U.S. invasion started and 22,000 soldiers and marines entered the Dominican Republic and about 3,000 Dominicans died during the fighting. The cover excuse for doing this was that this was done to protect foreigners there.

In 1965 I went to a big meeting at the State Department. Their only argument in opposition to those of us who were opposed to intervention in the Dominica Republic was, "Don't you think President Johnson knows more about this than you do?" Well, I had to answer honestly. I happen to be a Latin American specialist, I don't think Mr. Johnson could find the Dominican Republic on the map. It was a turning point in my life. We're not operating with a full deck. We
make it up as we go along, and that's why so many people are angry at us. Our interests are in oil, our interests are in whatever we can take from other countries. So we have to face it. We've been living a lie, and you can only live a lie for so long.

East Timor. In December 1975, Indonesia invaded East Timor. This incursion was launched the day after U.S. President Gerald Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had left Indonesia where they had given President Suharto permission to use American arms, which under U.S. law, could not be used for aggression. Daniel Moynihan, U.S. ambassador to the UN. said that the U.S. wanted “things to turn out as they did.” The result was an estimated 200,000 dead out of a population of 700,000.

Sixteen years later, on November 12, 1991, two hundred and seventeen East Timorese protesters in Dili, many of them children, marching from a memorial service, were gunned down by Indonesian Kopassus shock troops who were headed by U.S.- trained commanders Prabowo Subianto (son in law of General Suharto) and Kiki Syahnakri. Trucks were seen dumping bodies into the sea.

El Salvador. The civil war from 1981 to 1992 in El Salvador was financed by $6 billion in U.S. aid given to support the government in its efforts to crush a movement to bring social justice to the people in that nation of about 8 million people.

During that time U.S. military advisers demonstrated methods of torture on teenage prisoners, according to an interview with a deserter from the Salvadoran army published in the New York Times. This former member of the Salvadoran National Guard testified that he was a member of a squad of twelve who found people who they were told were guerillas and tortured them. Part of the training he received was in torture at a U.S. location somewhere in Panama.

About 900 villagers were massacred in the village of El Mozote in 1981. Ten of the twelve El Salvadoran government soldiers cited as participating in this act were graduates of the School of the Americas operated by the U.S. They were only a small part of about 75,000 people killed during that civil war.

Grenada. The CIA began to destabilize Grenada in 1979 after Maurice Bishop became president, partially because he refused to join the quarantine of Cuba. So the result was his overthrow October 25, 1983, with about 277 people dying. Our news media at the time was pure comic opera. Major news outlets with the message, "We got there just in time." In time for what? Grenada, the size of Santa Monica.

Guatemala. Almost too close to talk about, having lived there and see it so directly. It's impossible to forget. The New York Times is wondering where the terrorism is coming from. Well, if we would stop our terrorism, perhaps we'll have less terrorism - and it might be a very good idea.

In 1951 Jacobo Arbenz was elected president of Guatemala. He appropriated some unused land operated by the United Fruit Company and compensated the company. Arbenz was tarred as a part of a communist conspiracy - he was called a communist, which of course he wasn't - that word was used for anyone who supported the poor.
In 1954 a CIA-orchestrated coup put him out of office and he left the country. During the next 40 years various regimes killed thousands of people. But the US was always in charge. The US military has run Guatemala as a de facto dictatorship with elections every four years. Our own government is beginning to look that way - we have elections regularly, we talk about who is going to get elected for about three years, will it be tweedle dee or tweedle dum, this one or that one - and some are totally obnoxious. And then the US military would tell whoever was elected what to do.

Need we talk about Haiti? From 1957 to 1986 Haiti was ruled by Papa Doc Duvalier and later by his son. During that time their private terrorist force killed between 30,000 and 100,000 people. Millions of dollars in CIA subsidies flowed into Haiti during that time, mainly to suppress popular movements, although most American military aid to the country was covertly channeled through Israel.

The U.S. later forced out of the presidential office a black Catholic priest, Jean Bertrand Aristide. The wealthy white class in Haiti opposed him in this predominantly black nation, because of his social programs designed to help the poor and end corruption. We dumped him in Central Africa.

I wonder where the terrorists are coming from. Friends, I'm only up to Honduras. The whole message is that we have been living a LIE. Our foreign policy has been an ongoing lie that has created enmity all over the world. WE have not been truthful. The truth will make us free. The truth certainly hurts, and it's very unfortunate that we have to see this type of thing going on in our country. Our gravest danger, of course, according to the police agencies, are homegrown terrorists - people here who are very unhappy and are looking for scapegoats. And Mr. Trump will find the scapegoats for them in a very Hitlerian way. So let's insist on putting the lie aside.