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In Mugabe's Zimbabwe, Words Kill

We have all been shocked and horrified by the recent goings-on in Zimbabwe. In his desperation to cling to power at all costs during the “election” process of the past few months, its despot Robert Mugabe has starved, beaten and killed Zimbabwean citizens for the affront of not supporting him. The run-off “election” alone [has seen](#) a further hundred murdered, thousands beaten and tens of thousands evicted from their homes.

And the violence continues even though Mr Mugabe was now “won” an umpteenth term as president. He is clearly bent on punishing and destroying anyone who ever had the temerity to vote or speak against him.

Of course, the man has form.

- Within a few years of coming to power in a popular vote, Mr Mugabe, a Shona, sent in his personal military hit squad, the notorious North Korean-trained 5th Brigade, to perpetrate widespread massacres in Mataberland, stronghold of his political opponent Joshua Nkomo. [20,000 died](#) from the rival Ndebele tribe (which, descended from proud Zulus, historically regarded Shonas solely as a [source of slaves, women and cattle](#))
- It was in the 2000 parliamentary election, which Morgan Tsvangirai's MDC party [lost by only four seats](#), that Mr Mugabe first learnt, to his shock, he was no longer adored by his people.
- It was in response to this that he began violently expropriating white-owned farms in order to reward his cronies, and as a direct result the economy began its precipitous collapse (which I first wrote about in [2003](#)).
- For the 2002 presidential election he deployed widespread violence and vote-rigging against the opposition and achieved a “[seriously flawed](#)” if comfortable victory as his reward.
- Similar tactics for the 2005 parliamentary election ensured a

substantial [triumph](#) over the MDC by 37 seats.

- This was shortly followed by his “[Drive Out the Filth](#)” campaign, where by malevolently bulldozing the shanties and markets of the poorest people in Harare and other towns, he rendered [a million](#) mortals homeless and incomeless and softened up urban opposition.

Throughout all this criminal mayhem there have been continual calls from the international community for Mr Mugabe to moderate his behaviour and observe democratic norms. Travel bans and similar mild sanctions have been applied. All to no effect. And in the past few weeks he has happily travelled to [Rome](#) and [Egypt](#) for conferences. (Surely a kidnap and rendition could have been arranged?)

We are supposed to be encouraged now because the UN Security Council is for the first time “[discussing](#)” the latest “[election](#)”, Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu have condemned it, and even the [53](#)-strong African Union ([31](#) of them non-democracies) have mumbled some [vaguely critical words](#). Radio, TV and newspapers in the West continue to bleat about the need for sanctions, talks, negotiations, compromises.

Tosh, all tosh. Words and mild slaps have been going on for years. If they were ever going to work they would have done so by now, at least to some extent, but they haven't.

Mr Mugabe has made it abundantly clear that he will *never* leave office - that “[only God](#)” can remove him. And this is wise because his lifestyle if not life will be in immediate danger the moment he steps down. In 2002, Ian Smith, the country's last white ruler, laid down a [challenge](#): “*If Mugabe and I walk together into a black township, only one of us will come out alive. I'm ready to put that to the test right now. He's not*”.

Only direct military action - not words, not sanctions - will remove him and only the West has the military capability. It won't be difficult (though no doubt many will scream “[illegal war](#)”).

In 2000, British prime minister Tony Blair [deployed](#) a crack task force to Sierra Leone, which in just six weeks defeated rebel forces who had been waging civil war for nine years. A few months later, he sent in a handful of plucky SAS and SBS commandos who [dramatically rescued](#) 200 hostages from a different group of rebels deep in Sierra Leone. These two decisive actions were instrumental in turning the country into one of the African Union's 22 democracies, persisting to this day.

At the first sight of professional soldiery of such ilk, you can be sure the Zimbabwe army and police, who have no idea how to deal with anyone who isn't an unarmed civilian or baby, will discard their weapons and uniforms and run for shelter behind their mothers' skirts. In the name of enforcing the election



results and without anyone's permission, the objective should be to capture or kill Mr Mugabe together with as many as possible of his senior colleagues. Survivors would be delivered for trial for crimes against humanity at the international criminal court in The Hague, to join their co-despot Charles Taylor, once the brutal president of Liberia.

Having handed the administration to Morgan Tsangvarai, whom no-one but the Mugabe clique doubts was the winner of last March's presidential election, the invading force should then rapidly withdraw. This would allow the international community to provide the support it has already promised to help rebuild the shattered country. No Iraq style occupation should be envisaged.

In Mr Mugabe's Zimbabwe, words kill, because by achieving nothing

they permit and encourage him to continue his murderous rampage. Thus those who foreswear military action should just remain silent. Because such people are ipso facto on the side of Robert Mugabe. I am not.

Amnesty's Strange Approach to Human Rights Violations

Avoid the monstrous violators; go after the minor offenders

On 10th December 1948, in one of its first major acts, the General Assembly of the then three year old United Nations adopted and proclaimed, unanimously, a Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This year therefore marks its sixtieth anniversary.

The Irish Section of Amnesty International is already "*celebrating*" the occasion. This includes a series of rather abstruse (to me) essays appearing in the Irish Times linked to various Articles of the Declaration, starting with Article 1 about all humans being born free. Irish Amnesty also publishes its own foreshortened version of the declaration, notable mainly for its factually-incorrect, politically-correct, grammatically-incorrect confusion of singulars and plurals, eg "*Everyone is born free and has dignity because they are human*". 25th June was also apparently designated as an "*International Day in Support of Victims of Torture*" involving rallies, speeches and so forth.

I pricked up my ears, however, when two days later I happened to hear a six-minute radio broadcast by Amnesty's executive director, the very articulate Colm O'Gorman, a courageous man noted for his crusade against Ireland's clerical sex abuse of children, of which he was once an unfortunate victim.

The broadcast, which I have recorded here, is centred solely on human rights violations allegedly perpetrated on a teenager called



Mohammed by - who else? - the United States. We are told he was an innocent Chadian refugee alone in Pakistan who was arrested in a mosque, tortured and beaten by the Pakistani authorities, handed over to the Americans, tortured and beaten further, put on a plane to Guantanamo, tortured and beaten still further, and by implication this treatment is continuing to the present day, seven years on. Some of the claims are preposterous.

- He "*attempted suicide*" by banging against his cell wall.
- He was hung up by his hands, "*naked apart from his shorts*" (that's not "*naked*"),
- but taken down for mealtimes.
- His tongue is "*cracked*" due to thirst (what, "*permanently*"?).
- One beating was so severe he suffered from ... a broken tooth.

Not only is no evidence provided to support any of the allegations, but we are asked to believe that Mohammed, in the midst of his perpetual torture, was able to tell Amnesty all about it in detail, down to his broken tooth. Perhaps this was during some of those thrice-a-day shackle-free meal breaks that so help to pass the time. If there is one thing Guantanamo is noted for (other than permanent torture of all inmates, of course), it is that it is the world's only prison camp where guests,

thanks to their 4,000-5,000 daily halal calorie intake and exercise facilities, systematically put on weight and muscle, enjoy modern dental and medical care and get every opportunity to study. Deaths have been very few - three suicides and one cancer case - which is a better record, percentage-wise, than the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague which couldn't even keep Slobodan Milosevic alive during his trial for crimes against humanity.

Yet even if the abuse stories were all true, it seems perverse to select Guantanamo, with but some four hundred detainees, as the epitome of human rights violators, whilst ignoring others who consistently demonstrate far greater expertise in the violation department, in terms of both quality and quantity.

- North Korea is a prison state which runs a gulag every bit the equal of Stalin's. It is currently in the grip of man-made famine, barely a decade after the last one that killed some three million people. The Communist regime permits no dissent whatsoever.
- Cuba is another dissent-forbidding prison state, albeit not as brutal as North Korea, though by 1987 Fidel Castro already had 73,000 deaths to his ignominious name.
- The Communist regime that runs China systematically captures followers of the Falun Gong exercise regime, gives them a full medical, and then offers their organs for transplant into desperate patients from the West, and at keen prices.
- Sudan, through its Janjaweed proxy, is committing genocide against its own black Muslim citizens in Darfur, having claimed 400,000 lives and displaced over

2½ million people, most of whom have fled, destitute and in terror, to neighbouring Chad for refuge.

- Saudi Arabia forbids its eight million female citizens, and all other women for that matter, to leave their houses unless accompanied by an adult male relative and unless wearing an abaya, or to drive cars, or to leave the country without the permission of their male “*guardian*”.
- According to the Lancet, the torture of female genital mutilation is ruthlessly inflicted on young girls across the African continent at a rate of two million a year, with untold consequences for their future physical and mental health.
- Islam demands that all infidels be converted, or turned into “*dhimmis*” (second-class citizens paying jizya tax to Muslims) or be killed, and rules that anyone whose father was a Muslim is automatically himself a Muslim. The penalty for apostates (such as Barack Obama) is death, preferably by beheading.
- Zimbabwe starves, beats and kills its citizens for the crime of not supporting the tyrant Robert Mugabe. The last election alone has seen a hundred murdered, thousands beaten and tens of thousands evicted from their homes.

- Insulting Turkishness is a prisonable offence in Turkey.

Oh, and I nearly forgot, every year the Western world wilfully slaughters seven million of its own people, but this practice is protected - if not encouraged - by the law, because the innocent sufferers are not only voiceless and voteless but haven't yet exited the womb (what a difference a few centimetres down the birth canal makes). Five times more are similarly killed in the developing world. But since Amnesty is now an enthusiastic advocate of abortion, it sees no need to complain about these wanton mega-deaths.

So why does Amnesty Ireland, in celebrating the UN Declaration of Human Rights, choose to remain silent when there is such a fecund reservoir of the world's *monstrous* human rights violators from whom to choose? Why pick on little Guantanamo where there may be or may not be some violations, but in any case not even a thousand inmates have ever enjoyed its hospitality, of whom none have been killed? In fact, as this photomontage shows, this is part of global Amnesty campaign.

We all know the answer, of course. The monstrous violators are given a free pass because they are anti-democratic, not white and - especially - not Americans. Like any spoiled teenager, Amnesty loves to be seen as brave by rebelling against a strong and (mostly) righteous adult, safe in the knowledge that this will have no adverse consequences. But its juvenile antics do

nothing to better the lives of the many millions who truly suffer from egregious human rights abuses.

Like many do-good outfits that have been around for a long time, Amnesty has allowed itself to become morally corrupt if not bankrupt. It should be abandoned by right-meaning people, or at least ignored. There are plenty of other worthy NGOs to support, GOAL for instance.

Reflections on Ireland's Lisbon Treaty Referendum

Ireland's Lisbon Treaty Referendum campaign was a fascinating exercise which helped me clarify my thoughts about this (deliberately) complex document.

As I wrote earlier, I found it distinctly weird, not to say a bit uncomfortable, to find myself, as a Naysayer, on the same side as odious organizations such as Sinn Féin, the Peace and Neutrality Alliance, the Socialist Workers Party, which are singularly devoted to the destruction of Western society and the capitalism that has made its people wealthy and free. On the other hand if they wanted to vote No, I didn't really care about their reasons. I was happier to be associated with more business-oriented Naysayers such as Libertas or Catholic outfits such as Coir or the much-reviled newspaper Alive!.

But some of the objections to Lisbon raised by these various establishments were in fact reasons that I would be happy to vote Yes, to the extent that you might believe their reasons were well founded.

For example, Lisbon requires that states increase their military expenditure. I am all in favour of that because defence is the first and most important duty of any government it is morally wrong leave this to others.

Defending Europe	
State	% of GDP
US	4.1%
France	2.6%
UK	2.4%
Italy	1.8%
Germany	1.5%
Spain	1.2%
Ireland	0.9%
(Israel)	(7.3%)

The defence expenditure figures above illustrate the low priority Western Europe has been able to place on its self-defence, since it has left most of this to the hated Americans, who have deployed hundreds of thousands of troops within Europe since the end of the second world war to help foster democracy and to provide protection. Indeed the Americans with their obscene nuclear weapons kept those lovely Soviets at bay until their empire collapsed in 1991.

Ireland goes a step further by effectively subcontracting its national defence to the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy, for there is no-one else to

repel would-be foreign invaders or airliner-borne terrorists.

So yes, anything that encourages Ireland to defend itself and its people (look at that shameful 0.9%) is to be welcomed. And it should be paid for by cutting back on health and education since they are less important than ensuring everyone stays free and unkilld.

Ending Ireland's military neutrality should also be welcomed, because it is utterly amoral to regard Western democracy, liberalism, freedom and culture as being indistinguishable from the various degrees of autocracy and thugocracy that are their alternatives. In all cases of conflict, Ireland should take the side of the freedom-lovers and not remain neutral.

Many Naysayers fear that Lisbon would open the door to untrammelled free trade and competition and the tear down protectionist barriers. Also that privatisation of national health and education services could be fostered. If only this were true, since the inevitable result would be improved wealth, health and schooling for citizens, I would be sorely tempted to join the YESsirs.

However, you don't need Lisbon to bring any of these virtues into effect. Countries can do it on their own if they have the will to. That's the beauty of democracy - government by the people for the people.

And that points to the fundamental flaw in Lisbon - that it can oblige states to do stuff that they and/or their citizens *don't* want to. In the interests of law-making efficiency, there are some sixty areas where national vetoes will be replaced by Qualified Majority Voting (QMV). The whole and only point of QMV is to be able to force through future measures *against* the wishes of particular states. Inevitably, Ireland will sometimes be such a state, and since, moreover, its voting weight will be cut by two-thirds whilst Germany's will be doubled, why one earth should Ireland agree?

The EU already makes something in the order of 70-80% of the laws EU residents obey. Last year, for example, it passed 177, whereas the Irish parliament passed 85 and Westminster just 36. Germany's former president Roman Herzog, noting that 84% of his country's laws emanate from Brussels, questions "*whether Germany can still unreservedly be called a parliamentary democracy*".

Yet by making this process even easier through QMV, Lisbon will facilitate even more law-making, often unwelcome. Who wants that? Where's the benefit for individual countries such as Ireland, effectively reduced to provinces or counties? Why can't they make their own damn laws?

Then there is the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). This unelected body will become the final

arbiter on practically everything, demoting national supreme courts to second place. It is anyone's guess how it might in the decades ahead interpret Lisbon, deliberately riddled as it is with loose language, ambiguities, contradictions and cross-references, a veritable lawyers' nirvana. The issue here is that such decisions will no longer be part of a country's sovereignty, can lead anywhere and are irreversible.

The campaign has clarified my thinking. I am more against Lisbon than ever, but now for just two overriding reasons - QMV and the CJEU. These create a wholly different EU,



far distant from its citizens, and one that must never be allowed to come into force, regardless of what other laudable conditions Lisbon might contain.

Furthermore, if the EU has been so great, why change it into something completely different? Let it soldier on, within the remit of the existing treaties, forever. Many of the prominent Naysayers are calling for a renegotiation. Why? What's to renegotiate? Seven years of negotiation to bring Lisbon to its current appalling state have been an utter waste of resources.

The Economist was right when it said, "*just bury it; the European Union can get along well enough without it*".

Death to Lisbon. Long live the EU. And the €uro, by the way.

Garlic Is Good for your Health, Apparently

Five beautiful young women with high heels, long legs and short tunics smile happily as they pose beside what looks like a giant golden garlic, weighing a third of a ton, supported by three sturdy equally-golden cherubs.

What can this all mean?

It's obvious. Think rectum, think excrement, think embarrassment, think relief.



This is a new, \$42,000 monument, created by sculptor Svetlana Avakina and erected in the southern Russian resort town of Zheleznovodsk (meaning Iron Waters), in order to celebrate the Mashuk Akva-Term Sanatorium that you can see in the background. The stirring cry on the banner hung from the building gives the game away: "*Let's beat constipation and sloppiness ... with enemas*".

For yes, the Sanatorium and the town are inordinately proud of their enema industry. Hundreds if not thousands of the miserably bunged-up flock there throughout the year to get flushed out with "*Iron Waters*" from the local mineral springs. "*An enema is almost a symbol of our region*", declares the braggart director Alexander Kharchenko.

And the garlic? Not being Princess Diana, I am not terribly familiar with the intricacies of enigmatic enematic procedures. But if you are something like a 400 kilo gorilla I understand you get the pointy end of the garlic shoved up where the sun don't shine, lustily assisted by the five beauties in nurse's garb plus the three boy-angels. And then they connect the high-pressure iron-water hose.

Hopefully the gruesome garlic is scaled down a bit for smaller, more delicate mortals. But you never know with Russians. The Americans are of course all pansies, so the biggest garlic they can manage seems to be a piffling half-kilo, and in red rubber not gold.

Apparently enemas are good for your health and people actually part with their hard-earned money to submit to it. Beats me.

Interestingly, over the past several years Zheleznovodsk has also become the site of an international hot air balloon festival. I wonder where they get the hot air, and if the two industries are related.

Issue 178's Comments to Cyberspace

Just a handful of contributions over the past month.

- Proinsias De Rossa Disrespects Referendum
Letter to the Irish Times

Madam, - There should be no surprise that Proinsias De Rossa MEP is running around screaming in fury at and about his dastardly fellow countrymen for daring to shout no to Lisbon (Letters June 28th and elsewhere). This is the man who last March voted, along with 448 other MEPs in the European Parliament, to specifically disrespect the outcome of the Irish referendum, a thoroughly shameful motion that was carried almost 4:1. In another era, behaviour such as his might have been regarded as verging on the treasonous. - Yours etc,

• From a few tiny beginnings the American Dream is born

Comment in the Irish Independent site on a piece by Kevin Myers

Great post, and like "IEH" I never saw it coming either, despite the give-away title.

But poor old Barack; he doesn't stand a chance, and not merely because some whites, and nearly all Hispanics and Asians, will never vote for someone blacker than themselves.

For Obama is someone with no achievements whatsoever in his past by which his character and capabilities may be measured. So you can know him only by the company he keeps and takes money from - Jeremiah Wright, Tony Rezko, Bill Ayers, Bernardine Dohrn, to mention just the handful of lunatic racists, business fraudsters and unrepentant terrorists that we know about. You can be

sure the Republicans have a few more up their sleeves and are keeping their powder dry.

And that's not to talk about his avowed intention to run away from Iraq as fast as he can, regardless of military progress.

The Geriatric must be salivating at the tussle ahead.

- Is anything sadder than anonymous web cowards?

Comment in the Irish Independent on a piece by Ian O'Doherty

Very good piece, and amusing - except for your inexcusably appalling grammar. You're a journalist for God's sake; writing English is your stock in trade. Why then do you repeatedly mistake the singular for the plural in, for example,

"any hack who says they don't want people writing about them is telling fibs."

"nobody has to declare their identity in what they post on-line"

"where is the fun in insulting someone when they won't know it was you who did it?"

If you are too terrified to use "he" to include both men and women,

and find "he/she" or "she/he" too clumsy, then try pluralising the subject or some other way round to hid your embarrassment.

Just don't don't abuse the language.

By the way, I am owning up to this criticism using my true name and you can moreover find my blog at www.tallrite.com/blog.htm. No anonymity for me!...

Quotes for Issue 178

----- J I H A D -----

Quote: "If waterboarding does not constitute torture, then there is no such thing as torture."

English Journalist Christopher Hitchens after, with incredible bravery, voluntarily undergoing two bouts of waterboarding by American special forces.

His ordeal has been captured on video.
It's not nice.

Quote: "If Iran continues with its program for developing nuclear weapons, we will attack it. The sanctions are ineffective."

Israel's Transport Minister Shaul Mofaz contemplates the apparent failure of sanctions to deny Tehran

nuclear technology with bomb-making potential.

----- I R E L A N D -----

Quote: "Ireland was wrong to hold a referendum, which is a tool for dictators ... It is up to the Government to determine how it could pass the treaty though either a new referendum or a majority in the Dáil."

Alain Lamassoure MEP, and a key adviser to French president Nicolas Sarkozy, on the error of the Irish voters' ways

Quote: "The Irish disease is spreading. Everyone feels they can speak out now since the referendum. Ratification cannot be taken for granted anymore."

Piotr Maciej Kaczynski, a research fellow at the Brussels think tank Centre for European Policy Studies.

Quote: "If you want to stay on your knees, by all means, I'd encourage you ... there [is] a very pretty girl on her knees there in front of me."

Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary, at a press conference, stirs up the Rape Crisis Centre with an off-the-cuff joke at the expense of Daisy Ailiffe, a young reporter who is looking on the floor for her microphone