

Obama Legacy: Get Rid of the Bloody Guns

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Around 6 months ago I blogged prolifically on the need for America to overhaul its draconian guns laws, the motivation for the blogs was the shootings coinciding with the then latest release of the Batman film. 12 people were shot dead by a PHD student at a cinema screening. Blog respondents blogged words to the effect ofit'll never be done.....the freedom to hold a gun is hard wired into the American psyche and the American constitution.....too many hurdles etc,etc.

Well the ante has yet again been upped, now we have the barbaric butchery of tiny tots, 20 in all at Sandy Hook elementary school. One would have thought that the 2011 Norway mass slaughter of 91 people and the Dark Knight killing spree was enough for Uncle Sam to mobilise a rethinking of the right to carry a gun or to 'bear arms'. Now we have an additional example of high octane and quintessentially pure evil occurring in circumstances where a constitutional right, the right to carry guns only aids and abets or is complicit with perpetration of an act of evil and malevolence. It is axiomatic that easy access to guns, revolvers, automatics and the like act as an enabler that makes it convenient for psychopaths to access killing weapons for innocents. Maybe, just maybe, a critical mass of Americans can now get with the program and lobby for real change. Surely it's time to get rid of the Neanderthal so called right to carry a bloody gun.

It goes without saying that my heart and the hearts of my colleagues at Lovegrove Solicitors go out to the families of the little souls that lost their lives. May they have rapid transit to a finer place, a heaven if you will, a place where guns aren't a democratic right, a place where tots can feel safe amongst a fraternity of loved ones and enlightened inkling. This surely is not inconsistent with a free society after all America can only hold out as being the land of the free, if the free are free from the random acts of gun toting home grown menaces.

We also need to remember that the constitutional right to bear arms was enshrined into the American constitution more than 200 years ago, at a time when the citizens there wanted the ability to protect themselves or raise local militia in response to foreign enemies or even their own governments. At a time when guns came as muskets or affixed with bayonets, rather than rapid fire automatic rifles.

If Obama can overhaul the primitive gun laws of the USA, this will be his greatest legacy; not saving the world from economic Armageddon, not health care reform, but rather making America a place where cinema patrons and little school pupils can go about their affairs free from the risk of menace induced by easy gun access.

It has been done before, one need go no further than former Australian Prime Minister John Howard's greatest legacy, the amendment of the Australian gun laws and the 'gun buy back' scheme. And when did he do this after the Port Arthur massacre, where somewhat reminiscent of the Norway carnage some 35 holiday goers and tourists were shot dead. Howard didn't muck round (although unencumbered by some of the American constitutional impediments) he bulldozed gun reform laws through. Needless to say there has not been a mass killing rampage since.

If you are part of the linked in community or the broader enlightened fraternity of bloggers, please comment on and circulate this blog. Let's get some international momentum happening to assist law reformers and the Obama administration move towards a more enlightened and human paradigm. Tears and mourning is not enough, mobilisation of public opinion is what's needed because it's time for Uncle Sam to relegate these draconian laws to the vault.

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