



CLIP TRANSCRIPT

Stephen Kenny- Fall of American Democracy

Over the years I've kept in touch with him from time to time, and more recently—and this is publicly known because Habib reported it in the newspapers that—he had asked me to assist him in suing the U.S. government over his rendition to Egypt.

Interviewer: Are you?

Well, I would if I could is the reality. I mean, I met with Michael Ratner in New York in January 2011, but, you know, the cases that have been run have all lost on national security grounds. Which again, I find astounding. I mean, that would never happen in Australia, you know. Habib is now suing the Australian government, here. But the Australian government are not saying national security because it doesn't exist. That defense for the government does not exist. But it essentially gives the government the capacity to commit murder and mayhem with complete immunity. I mean, I find that quite astounding.

And reading the cases, it...the willingness of the court to give over to this national security interest is, I think, a matter that seriously undermines any democratic country. And perhaps explains why the American secret services get away with so much. Because they know they can cover it all up with national security. And I don't think that that is a good thing for democracy.

Guantanamo Bay, I think, is going to be seen as the significant start of the fall of American democracy. I think that, you know, the Americans are facing a very difficult time economically. And I think politically as well. And I think that Guantanamo Bay will stand out as a beacon of when things really started to go bad. I hope that never comes to pass, but I really fear it.