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TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2005

Our Charming Allies In The War On Terror

by Michael in New York on [6/14/2005 03:44:00 PM](#)

Bush is determined to do whatever it takes to spread freedom and democracy around the world...except when it isn't convenient.

For lovely Uzbekistan, the cruel military dictatorship that gunned down hundreds of its own people last month, Bush and Russia blocked an attempt to start an international probe into this massacre. This Washington Post story appeared on A-15 and hasn't made a stir anywhere. Who would be surprised or care that Bush is happy to defend his closest allies when they attack their own people?

Defense officials from Russia and the United States last week helped block a new demand for an international probe into the Uzbekistan government's shooting of hundreds of protesters last month, according to U.S. and diplomatic officials.

British and other European officials had pushed to include language calling for an independent investigation in a communique issued by defense ministers of NATO countries and Russia after a daylong meeting in Brussels on Thursday. But the joint communique merely stated that "issues of security and stability in Central Asia, including Uzbekistan," had been discussed.

Apparently Condi Rice has taken on the mantle of ineffective supporter of reason a la Colin Powell: her State Dept. was shouted down by the Defense Dept. which thinks a military base in Uzbekistan is more important in the war on terror than actually FIGHTING the war on terror by denouncing the slaughter of civilians by corrupt governments. Way to go, Rummy!

And in lovely Pakistan, Kristof of the New York Times reports on [the fate of Mukhtaran Bibi](#) -- a brave woman who was ordered raped by the courts but refused to commit suicide afterwards and has become a major activist.

Ms. Mukhtaran used her compensation money to start two schools in her village, one for boys and the other for girls. She went out of her way to enroll the children of her attackers in the schools, showing that she bore no grudges. Readers of my column sent in more than \$133,000 for her. Mercy Corps, a U.S. aid organization, has helped her administer the money, and she has expanded the schools, started a shelter for abused women and bought a van that is used as an ambulance for the area.

Her plan to visit the US and denounce honor killings, rapes and acid attacks on women was too much for the gov't, which has grabbed her and thrown her into a dank hole somewhere. Kristof annoyed me with this comment:

JOHN'S PHOTOS



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- Daily Kos**
Open Thread and Diary Rescue - *Today, srkp23 (pulling a double shift), ybruti, taylormattd, ItsJessMe and vcmvo2 combed through hundreds of diaries to find this powerful list. Today's...
18 minutes ago
- Eschaton**
Overnight - Folk On. Newish.
35 minutes ago
- HuffPost Politics**
Michael Likosky: Ed Rendell: Hardest Working Man in Infrastructure - At this year's National Governors Association (NGA) meeting, Governor Ed Rendell's tenure as Chair fittingly came to a close with a plenary session on infras...
37 minutes ago
- Crooks and Liars**
Open Thread - Open Thread below...
1 hour ago
- Firedoglake**
Late Night: Livin' the Dolce Vita with The Lovernator - Who's got time to govern? Certainly not Mark Sanford.
1 hour ago

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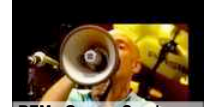
Traditional media has to debunk the birthers



One small step...



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The Treatment
 Obama Has a Grown-Up Talk With America (Gulp)
47 minutes ago

Ezra Klein
 Tab Dump
5 hours ago

Wonk Room
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