

Episode 60: The Death Of Habeas Corpus

I am not going to **beat around the bush**. Let me **cut to the chase** and say what I have to say. When the Congress in the United States voted to basically get rid of **habeas corpus** for alien residents, they gave the President the authority to imprison anyone at will. These prisoners would then have no **recourse** whatsoever. For example, let's say that my wife who is Japanese decides to donate to a charity in the Middle East. And then the Bush Administration decides that the charity is supporting Al-Qaeda. My wife could then be arrested for supporting Al-Qaeda and be sent to prison where she could be held **indefinitely**. Her lawyer would not be allowed to bring the case to a judge. I can't tell you how **perplexing** this is to me. Habeas corpus is at the very **core** of what distinguishes a free society from a police state. I just wonder why there is no uproar in America. I stopped expecting much from the **rubber stamp** sorry excuse for a Congress we have, but the **apathy** and silence of the American public is **unfathomable**. I guess that if this **subversion** of the Constitution can't wake up the **masses** to what is going on, then nothing will.

Vocabulary:

Beat around the bush--- don't say exactly what it is you want to say. It is difficult for you to be clear about what you want.

Cut to the chase--- Get to the point

Habeas corpus---http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habeas_corpus

Recourse--- is when choose a course of action for assistance

Indefinitely---the length of time is not determined

Perplexing---confusing

Core--- center

Rubber stamp---approval without a discussion of the issues

Apathy--- lack of interest or concern

Unfathomable---difficult to understand

Subversion---to weaken something

Masses---common people