

Has Government Earned Our Trust

Twelfth in a series

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Oscar Grant III:

This name probably does not now ring a bell for many, but it should, and the name should not be forgotten. Oscar Grant III was a 24 year old father of a 4 year old girl who lived in Hayward, California. It was New Years, and Oscar had been visiting friends in San Francisco. After the visit, Oscar was returning to the *East Bay* on a *BART* (Bay Area Rapid Transit) train.

Evidently some sort of altercation occurred in one of the cars, and the police were called. At the next station several people were being detained by the police as suspects in this altercation, Oscar Grant was one of these people.

Oscar had been required to sit against a wall. People on the train thought the police to be acting overly aggressive and so they began photographing and video recording the actions of the police from their location inside the train car. Some were using cameras, others were using their cell phones to take pictures and record video.

Caught on video was the police forcing Oscar's head to the floor. One policeman put his knee across Oscar's neck while face down on the floor. Another officer, who appeared to be handcuffing Oscar, stood up, drew his service pistol, pointed it at Oscar and shot him in the back. The bullet went through Oscar, hit the concrete floor under him, and ricocheted back into Oscar's lung. Oscar was pronounced dead around 9:15 a.m.

Prior to the shooting, a video recorder caught one of the policemen punching Oscar in the face. The police have evidently reported that Oscar was shouting obscenities at them. Yet we go to jail if we punch someone who says something we don't like. The problem is that those in control, the police in this case, can always provoke, or invent whatever situation they feel will justify their actions.

It was pointed out that Oscar had served some time in prison on drug charges. Two things: 1) he paid his debt, and 2) none of this was known to the officer who drew his pistol and killed this young man. At best it's a lame excuse for murder after the fact.

Neither Hale, nor Carrion [both in the last article], nor Oscar Grant III was my son, but they could have been. However, it really doesn't matter, they were fellow Americans who were due the benefit of the doubt, being presumed innocent until proven guilty. And that goes for all Americans, even the ones who are guilty.

It is clear that our police are not held to the same standard as the average non-police citizen, they are being held to a substantially reduced standard. Clearly, we are not *equal in the eyes of the law*. Yet, this is a corner stone of what America is about, that no one, regardless of station, is

above the law.

And it is not that rogue agents of government commit violent acts of murder or attempted murder that is the problem. The real problem is not that some American's are murdered by government agents. The real problem is that these agents are not held accountable for their actions, exactly the same as ordinary citizens had we committed the same act.

However, in the case of Oscar Grant's shooting by BART officer Johannes Mehserle, this shooting resulted in an indictment for murder. But a good case can be made that this only occurred because so many passengers were taking video of the event, some of them actually catching the murder on video. It is highly unlikely that such an indictment would have come down if the only witnesses were police. And this too is part of the problem. Police cover up for each other.

It appears that criminal behavior is OK in the ranks of police, but not OK in the ranks of the American people. And because 'we the people' depend on these officers for our safety, we have had a tendency to excuse and overlook their criminal behavior. But it seems the public is becoming less and less trusting and forgiving, many having become victims of over zealousness themselves.

No one thinks much about it when someone who has a history of bad conduct is roused by police. But when a family or community knows an individual to be generally good and he (or she) is beaten or treated unjustly by police, it affects the attitudes of the entire family. And if the family is 'tight' in a community, then the attitudes of those in that community are also affected. This then serves to alienate or separate the police further from those they are supposed to protect. Without trust, how do you protect someone?

As police become more alienated, where do they find validation for their attitudes and behaviors? Perhaps other police. Which only serves to further separate the police from the people who need them.

I think the point I would like to make is that we are all in this together. In the Banking Relief Act of March 9, 1933, all United States citizens became an identified enemy of the United States, and that includes police, judges and attorneys.

Where the "Trading with the Enemy Act" said, "*other than citizens of the United States,*" the Banking Relief Act says, "*by any person within the United States or any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof.*" From being excluded to being included.

Therefore, if police, judges and attorneys act to create a 'police state' to subdue *the enemy*, that will have the same effect on everyone they care about outside the police force and judicial system as well. Almost all laws being enforced today are commercial and have *no injured party*, no one who has filed a signed complaint on which a *cause of action* can be justified. And so police are constantly putting their lives on the line to enforce commercial law for the benefit of the *commercial elite*, the same people who use the police to protect and enhance their commercial

fraud. Like making the United States citizen an identified enemy of the United States. This step makes the citizen's normal and regular activities into a commercial activity in order to regulate that citizen enemy and take his money and investments from him. Remembering that about 50% of retirement funds disappeared in the financial upheaval of 2008 and the citizen enemy was saddled with trillions more debt. The policeman's job will be to protect the commercial criminals once the American people figure this out.