

Reprehensible Oz Government uses social tragedy to order Internet Censorship

by judd *Wednesday, Oct 10 2012, 11:55pm*

international / prose / post

I am cynical enough as it is, however, I could hardly believe what I read today in a mass media report (reproduced below). The attempt of the Victorian government to brazenly Censor the Internet using, of all things, the Jill Meagher tragic rape and murder case is beyond the pale! This is NOT characteristic of the Australia I was raised in!

If the authorities are truly so concerned with legal issues, rights and JUSTICE then why hasn't former PM John Howard been arrested and placed on trial for his PROVEN war crimes, of which he has been accused by other parliamentarians and former prime ministers? That is all one need contemplate to assess or TEST the INTEGRITY of the LAW in Australia today.

Exploiting the tragic [Jill Meagher case](#) for political purposes is quite simply the most appalling and disgusting act I have ever witnessed in Australia, and I thought Gillard was as low as it was humanly possible to go -- notwithstanding, the Americans would be well pleased with this development/outcome.

Report from The Age follows:

Court orders internet ban on Meagher accused

by Mark Russell

A magistrate today ordered any damaging material about the man accused of raping and murdering Jill Meagher be removed from the internet.

Deputy Chief Magistrate Felicity Broughton said because of the internet's unregulated and anarchic environment, there was a view any ban would be a futile gesture but she disagreed.

Ms Broughton said most websites such as Facebook had sophisticated, organised structures which could be held accountable.

She decided not to ban the publication of Adrian Ernest Bayley's images because identity did not appear to be an issue in the case.

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The magistrate handed down her decision at 2.15pm today after Victoria Legal Aid lawyers acting for the alleged killer applied for suppression orders stopping the publication of any prejudicial material and images, photographs or likenesses of him.

Defence lawyer Helen Spowart tendered a vast amount of material sourced from the internet to the court which she said was designed to express or incite hatred in relation to Bayley.

The material had featured on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Bayley appeared via video-link today from the Melbourne Assessment Prison to hear Ms Broughton's decision.

Ms Broughton said there had been an extraordinary level of media and public interest in the case.

She said mainstream media had up to date been primarily responsible in its reporting of the case and the main thrust of the VLA application had been directed at the non-mainstream material online.

The prohibition order would remain in place until January 18 next year when Bayley is due to appear in court for a committal mention.

Ms Spowart had told the court the material fuelling the vilification of Bayley could irreparably damage his chances for a fair trial.

Bayley had been labelled in "sub-human terms" and the continued publication of the material could irredeemably contaminate any potential jurors.

A number of websites had refused to remove the damaging material about Bayley despite requests from Victoria Police.

Ms Spowart said the suppression order was needed to send a message to those responsible that continued defiance would result in criminal sanctions and would not be tolerated.

When Bayley had first appeared in court on September 28, Jill Meagher's distraught husband pleaded with people on social media to stop posting comments about Bayley.

Tom Meagher said the negative comments could impact on the legal proceedings against Bayley.

Police allege Bayley was the man in a blue hoodie seen on CCTV footage walking towards Ms Meagher, just before she went missing early on Saturday morning, September 22.

Ms Meagher, 29, who moved with her husband from Ireland to Melbourne three years ago, was allegedly abducted while walking home alone from a bar in Sydney Road.

She had left Bar Etiquette at 1.33am on Saturday after drinking with ABC colleagues, and planned to walk to the nearby flat she shared with her husband.

Police discovered Ms Meagher's body in a shallow grave beside a dirt road in Gisborne South, which is about 45 kilometres - or a 40-minute drive - from where Ms Meagher was last captured on CCTV footage walking north along Sydney Road.

<http://tinyurl.com/8acjd5z>

Jungle Drum Prose/Poetry. <http://jungledrum.lingama.net/news/story-174.html>