

COLUMBIA HOSTS AHMADINEJAD – CAN YOU SAY “TREASON”?

By Don Feder

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Patriots need to learn to two words -- “treason” and “traitor.” The American people need to hear the truth – that the left has gone far beyond dissent. It betrays America at every turn.

Its hatred of our nation – our history and underlying ethos – is visible in word and deed. It slanders the republic, lies about our past, undercuts our warriors, revels in American deaths and consorts with the enemy in time of war (aid and comfort, and all that).

These reflections are prompted by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s speech at Columbia University, in the course of his visit to consult with his fellow fascist thugs at the United Nations.

Iran’s “president” (a term that ill-suits the ruler of a totalitarian state) is quite possibly the world’s most dangerous man – easily its most loathsome.

Back in 1979, Ahmadinejad was an intelligence operative who participated in the 444-day hostage-taking at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. In 2000, he hosted a Holocaust-denial conference in the same city, attended by such arch anti-Semites as David Duke.

This Hitler-with-a-three-day-growth threatens to “wipe Israel off the map” and promises the eventual destruction of America. He has ties to Al Qaeda. His regime commands its own terrorist army,

Hezbollah, which came close to plunging Lebanon into another civil war and attacks targets around the world.

Iran provides the guns and bombs terrorists use to kill U.S. forces in Iraq. It is hell-bent on acquiring nuclear weapons to use against America and Israel.

And Columbia is giving Ahmadinejad a forum, Why not? If treason has a home address, it's America's college campuses.

Don't be fooled by Columbia President Lee Bollinger's attempt to dress the university's betrayal of America in the robes of academic inquiry. "It should never be thought that merely to listen to ideas we deplore in any way implies our endorsement of those ideas, or the weakness of our resolve to resist those ideas or our naivete about the very real dangers inherent in such ideas," Bollinger proclaims.

Nearly as fatuous are the comments of John Coatsworth, interim dean of Columbia's School of International Public Affairs, who claims students need "opportunities to hear, challenge and learn from controversial speakers of different views." Why it's essential to their learning experience.

What can Columbia's students learn from Ahmadinejad – how to hate Jews, how to pretend the Holocaust didn't happen, how to plot nuclear genocide, how to murder Americans, how to threaten to kill those who "insult" Islam?

This is such contemptible stuff, which plumbs the depths of intellectual dishonesty, that it hardly merits much of a response. However, we would briefly note the following:

1. Columbia "resists" the ideas of Islamo-fascism -- which receive widespread support from faculty and students alike --

the way a cheerleader with a reputation resists the advances of a star quarterback. While World War III rages beyond its ivy-covered walls, nearly the only ideas heard on campus are those of the anti-war, anti-American left. Consider how many history or government courses at Columbia assign Bill Bennett's "America: The Last Best Hope", compared to Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States."

2. Columbia is such a bastion of let-every-voice-be-heard, that it recently revoked an invitation to Minuteman founder Jim Gilchrist. (The last time Gilchrist appeared on campus, he was assaulted by radicals, due to the administration's refusal to provide adequate security.) The founder of a group protecting America's borders is persona non-grata at Columbia, while the leader of a gang dedicated to our destruction – well, students need to listen to his views and have an opportunity to "challenge him."
3. Columbia kicked the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) off campus in 1969. It will provide a propaganda forum to a regime committed to our annihilation, but won't give students the opportunity to serve their country.
4. Did Columbia invite the late Augusto Pinochet to speak on campus, when he was president of Chile? How about P.W. Botha, when he headed South Africa's apartheid regime? That invitation to former Yugoslav strongman Slobodan Milosevic must have been lost in the mail. But I thought Columbia was open to all points of view.

Am I questioning Columbia's patriotism? Not at all. It's unpatriotic, no question about it.

I know how treason is defined in Article III, Section 3 of the Constitution ("Treason against the United States shall consist only

in levying War against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort.”)

But liberals are always telling us that the words of the Constitution can't be interpreted too narrowly – that we have an “evolving Constitution” which must change with the times. Well, perhaps it's time for the definition of treason to evolve beyond the artificial constraints of 18th. century thinking.

Let's be clear about what is and isn't treason.

It's not treasonous to disagree with the president, even to say dumb things about our government. We pledge allegiance to a flag, and the republic for which it stands (which the left has a penchant to burn, by the way), not to a particular president or party.

It's not treason to openly voice disagreement with U.S. policies, including a decision to deploy our military abroad. Americans have been doing this since the founding of our republic.

But, to always think the worst of your country, that's treason. To distort our history to cast America in the worst possible light, that's treason. To slander our soldiers by calling them war criminals, that's treason. To celebrate the killers of Americans, that's treason. To hope for an enemy victory, that's treason. To provide a forum for a leader pledged to our destruction, who's financing the murder of Americans, that most assuredly is treason.

Since the Vietnam anti-war movement, treason has been rampant. It's even chic. You'll find it in Hollywood, academia, the news media, public education and Congress.

Treason is so commonplace that it's an almost daily occurrence. Patriots are so intimidated– so afraid to appear

extremist or Birchy -- that we soft-pedal the truth. All of which begets more treason.

Treason has become part of the fabric of our culture, so ubiquitous that it hardly raises eyebrows any more. No longer is the traitor a fifth columnist plotting with fellow conspirators. Today, treason is open and unabashed. Treason has gone big-screen, digital, cable.

- **Michael Moore** (traitors waddle among us) has made \$50 million selling treason. In “Bowling for Columbine,” the family-size Axis Sally portrayed America as a nation of violence-prone, gun-loving psychos. In a 2002 CNN interview, Moore opined that: “Capitalism is a sin. This is an evil system.” Wouldn’t that make the most capitalistic nation on earth the epitome of evil? Needless to say, Moore thinks the killers of Americans in Iraq are heroes: “The Iraqis who have risen up against the occupation (*that would be the U.S. armed forces*) are not ‘insurgents’ or ‘terrorists’ or ‘The Enemy.’ They are the revolution, the Minutemen, and their numbers will grow – and they will win.”
- **Cindy Sheehan** (Gold Star collaborator) doesn’t blame the terrorists who actually put a bullet in him for her son Casey’s death. She blames W. (who she calls “the biggest terrorist”). That’s not treasonous, merely moronic. What marks Sheehan as a traitor is comments like, “America has been killing people on this continent since it was started. This country is not worth dying for.” Then Sheehan should find a country that is worth dying for – from her warped perspective -- perhaps Cuba or North Korea, and live there.

- Ward Churchill** (an ersatz native American and authentic traitor) is best known for an essay in which he compared the office workers who died on September 11, 2001 to “little Eichmanns.” (Get it, tools of a genocidal regime?) But the professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder has made a career of shouting “Nazi” at America. The settling of America, beginning in 1492 “unleashed a process of conquest and colonization unparalleled in the history of humanity.” (But Churchill does find parallels. Take the title of his 1994 book, “Colonization and Genocide in Native North America.”) Ward grooves on the mass murder of his countrymen. (“One of the things I’ve suggested is that it may be that more 9/11s are necessary” to achieve an “actual transformation of consciousness.”) In a 2004 speech, Churchill explained that in his student days it was “U.S. Out of Vietnam” Now it’s “U.S. out of the Persian Gulf.” But these slogans don’t go far enough. What’s necessary, Churchill told his audience, is “U.S. out of North America. U.S. off the planet.” You’re going to tell me calls for America to disappear don’t constitute treason?
- Nicholas De Genova** is one of the many voices heard at Columbia (all speaking in unison), where he’s an assistant professor of anthropology. At a 2003 anti-war teach-in at Columbia, De Genova called for “a million Mogadishus” (in reference to the 1993 ambush in Somalia, in which 18 U.S. soldiers were killed and their bodies dragged through the streets). Warming to his point, De Genova told 3,000 Columbia students: “U.S. flags are the emblem of the invading war machine in Iraq today... . The only true heroes are those who find ways that help defeat the U.S. military.” Ahmadinejad will feel right at home on the Morningside Heights campus.

- **Bill Maher** is an amalgamation of the Marx Brothers – Groucho and Karl. Within hours of the 9/11 attack (the tears were hardly dry), Maher declared that Americans “have been the cowards, lobbing Cruise missiles from 2,000 miles away. That’s cowardly. Staying in the airplane when it hits the building, say what you want about it, it’s not cowardly.” When several sponsors pulled their ads, ABC cancelled Maher’s show “Politically Incorrect.” Within a year, he was back on HBO with “Real Time With Bill Maher.” The entertainment industry finds ways to reward treason.
- **Jane Fonda** is the queen of planet Benedict Arnold. By letting Hanoi Jane get away with her treason, we encouraged her ideological soul mates to slither out from under the rocks where they reside. During her July-August 1972 trip to North Vietnam, Fonda made propaganda broadcasts for the communists (asking American soldiers to “examine the reasons given to justify the murder you are being paid to commit”), praised the guerrillas (“We thank you for your brave and heroic fight”), visited the Hanoi Hilton and lied about the POWs (“The POWs appear healthy and fit.”). During the Cambodian genocide, Fonda refused to sign an ad by erstwhile allies like Joan Baez condemning the Pol Pot regime. Today, she’s dusted off her moral indignation and is active in the new anti-war movement. Shortly after 9/11, Fonda insisted that instead of retaliation we should try to understand the “underlying reasons” for burying 3,000 men, women and children under tons of rubble (those who weren’t burned alive). Think Ahmadinejad needs a date while he’s in town?

Shortly after the Vietnam War, North Vietnamese Colonel Bui Tin confided to *The Wall Street Journal*, “Visits to Hanoi by

people like Jane Fonda ...gave us confidence that we should hold on in the face of battlefield reverses.”

From caves in Afghanistan and cells in Baghdad to training camps in Gaza and missile batteries in Syria, the terrorists and their state sponsors can take comfort in Columbia's act of treason.

The war on terrorism requires a domestic counterpart. We need to start calling treason, treason and traitors, traitors. Only then will the American people begin to understand the festering evil in our midst.