Post 9-11 Terror Hysteria: Social Work Practice and The US Patriot Act

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Abstract

It was only weeks after the planes crashed into the twin towers on that bright, sunlit morning of September 11th, 2001, that it became apparent that the most important challenge now facing American democracy was how well would we strike a balance between liberty and security. This paper will look at the history of civil liberties in light of threats to national security. It will examine components of the US Patriot Act, how these provisions are being applied and the potential implication of the act on social work education and practice. Suggestions of how social work might respond to these new realities will be discussed.
United States. FBI agents whose investigation into this story were suppressed have even said that these investigations could have prevented 9/11. It is a story of international terror and terrorist financiers. It stretches from New England to Saudi Arabia and involves businessmen, politicians and terror networks. And it begins in the most unlikely of places: the offices of an enterprise architecture software firm in Quincy, Massachusetts. Wright was pleased when a senior agent was assigned to help investigate “the founder and the financier of Ptech”, but the agent did no work and merely pushed papers during his entire time on the case. Shortly after the 1998 African embassy bombings, Vulgar Betrayal began to uncover a money trail linking al-Qadi to the attack. Continued Threat of Homegrown Terrorism. Since 9/11, terrorist networks have been dismantled, training camps have been dispersed, and the terrorist leadership largely decimated. Internationally, al-Qaeda has become more decentralized, leading to a greater dependence on its affiliates and allies. The value for terrorist networks also often lies in the ability of homegrown terrorists to more easily travel back and forth and work within the United States without raising suspicion. Reid was caught in the act and apprehended aboard the plane by passengers and flight attendants. FBI officials took Reid into custody after the plane made an emergency landing at Boston’s Logan International Airport.[8]. Six men were arrested in a plot to attack Fort Dix, a U.S. Army post in New Jersey. The Patriot Act is legislation passed in 2001 to improve the abilities of U.S. law enforcement to detect and deter terrorism. The act’s official title is, “Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism,” or USA-PATRIOT. He also stated that without the provisions in the act, “the FBI could be forced back into pre-September 11 practices, attempting to fight the war on terrorism with one hand tied behind our backs.” Patriot Act and Privacy Debate. Fifty Terror Attacks Foiled Since 9/11: The Homegrown Threat and the Long War on Terrorism. The Heritage Foundation. The USA PATRIOT Act, as it is officially known, is an acronym for “Uniting and ...read more. Dodd-Frank Act.