

Why is Obama Reluctant to Show the Final Moments of Osama bin Laden's Life?

Evonne Ridley: Jeremy Corbyn, it's a bit like Cluedo isn't it, why do you think this has happened, because it has started to fuel the conspiracy theorists.

Well the story starts off very plain, very clear, very short. The compound was stormed, the SEALs went in, there was a gunfight and Bin Laden was shot. And then word gets out the body was disposed of at sea, then they claim to have DNA evidence it is the body, which they're not releasing, then they claim to have photos they're not releasing, then photos appear on the internet which might or might not have been of Bin Laden, who knows? And then it turns out he was unarmed, and then you get this sort of gung ho reaction from governments all around the world. Cameron was as bad as Obama in the Commons saying 'we've got him, we've killed him'

Evonne Ridley: Well Jeremy this is exactly what the Zionist state did with Adolf Eichmann when he was kidnapped from Argentina and put on a showcase trial in Jerusalem in 1962 do you not think if they had the opportunity that would have been more appropriate?

Well I think everyone should be put on trial. I also profoundly disagree with the death penalty under any circumstances for anybody that's my one view. But the point you were making about the Gunpowder Plot, absolutely spot on. When Charles the First was executed his head was displayed, when Cromwell was executed, oh no, Cromwell died and was then dug up and executed by the incoming regime, the return of the monarchy, just to prove he was dead. And so we have to sort a medieval triumphalism around this which I find quite strange. But the president has to explain why he's not confirming evidence of the death, why the burial at sea, if there was indeed a burial at sea and if it was Bin Laden. Because Bin Laden may well have been dead a year or two for all we know.

Panel discussion continues....

Obama has very rapidly morphed into a Pentagon president just like all the others in that he's increased the number of prison places at Bagram, he's failed to close Guantanamo Bay and as I understand it the Pakistan government knew absolutely nothing about this raid they probably watched on CNN like the rest and found out about it at that stage, on top of the regular drone attacks that are going on with all the killing that comes with that. Obama seems not too able to understand the lessons of history.

Evonne Ridley: Why should she care about world opinion, why not just release the pictures?

Well, I can't answer the question of why, we can only guess there is something fishy here. Either Bin Laden wasn't there, therefore there has to be a story, or the pictures are very gory

or they show something else such as that he was unarmed and was shot as may well be the case.

Other guest: I just want to answer one other point to Jeremy, I think a lot of people make this mistake about talking criminal law versus the law of war. Whatever someone's position on the death penalty, we can agree to disagree, people have to remember this was a military operation against a military figure.

Evonne Ridley: maybe Jeremy can encompass that in his remarks

Yes but on this there was no attempt whatsoever, that I can see, to arrest him, to put him on trial, to go through that process. This was an assassination attempt and is yet another tragedy upon a tragedy upon a tragedy. The World Trade Center was a tragedy, the attack in Afghanistan was a tragedy, the war in Iraq was a tragedy. Tens of thousands of people have died, torture has come back onto the world stage and been canonized virtually into law by Guantanamo and Bagram. Can't we learn some lessons from this, that we're just going to descend deeper and deeper in... [interrupted]

Evonne Ridley: Are we not entering a new period because this targeted killing of Osama bin Laden was then followed up twenty four hours later, we're told. by a drone attack in Yemen aimed at taking out Imam Anwar al-Awlaki ?

Right and the next stage will be an attempted assassination on Gadhafi and so it will go on and this will just make the world more dangerous and worse and worse and worse. The solution is got to be law and not war.