



IN AMERICA, every constitution of every state in the Union guarantees the rights of the people to petition their government and to freely assemble to consult for the common good. California says no law may restrain or abridge liberty of speech or press. And, like Washington, all states declare that the government: 1) derives its just powers from the consent of the governed; and 2) is established to protect and maintain the individual rights of citizens.

Those rights have never been repealed, yet many of our elected politicians are either failing to guarantee them or actively subverting them. For example, the federal government is colluding with domestic intelligence agencies, universities, powerful private law firms, and corporate giants, to create a Censorship Industrial Complex that denies free speech to millions of citizens. No one “consented” to this abuse of governance. The Executive Branch of the U.S. government simply, and unjustly, seized that power for itself. And the Department of Justice continues to obstruct justice by refusing to prosecute high government officials for that collusion.

Thus, freedom of public expression is suppressed by a “public-private partnership” of government and private corporations. Philosophical, political, or scientific views, or artistic activities that depart from the narrow bounds of official ideology or aesthetics are identified and flagged for censorship. Open criticism of abnormal social phenomena is ruthlessly discouraged. For those targeted by the censors, any attempt at public defense is met immediately with a tsunami of propaganda that defends the “partnership,” accuses the target of real or imagined criminality, and encourages more false and insulting charges from others who support the “partnership.”

In another time, this was the textbook definition of Fascism, and today it is supported by our media, our universities, our public health establishment, and other cultural institutions.

Oregon’s Constitution, Article I, Section 9, declares that “No law shall violate the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable search, or seizure.” This right is also “guaranteed” by the U.S. Government and the other 49 states, and yet it is violated every day by a secretive surveillance program – contracted out to a powerful private corporation by our three most recent presidents – that allows federal, state, and local law enforcement to access, without a warrant, the phone records of Americans who are not suspected of a crime.

Many of our state elected officials – governors, senators, attorneys general, etc. – have also violated their oaths to defend their own constitutions and protect the rights of citizens. The violations may be different in different states, but – as many of the violators like to say – “an injury to one is an injury to all.”

Charter 24 is a loose, informal and open association of Americans of various shades of opinion, faiths and professions in every state of the union. We are united – individually and collectively – by the demand that every government official, at every level from federal to

municipal, must enforce the civic and human rights laid down by the constitutions and by the laws that protect those rights.

Charter 24 is not an organization. It has no rules, permanent bodies or formal membership. It embraces everyone who agrees with its ideas and participates in its work. It does not form the basis for any oppositional political activity. Like many similar citizen initiatives in various countries, West and East, it seeks to promote the general public interest.

Charter 24 is an extension of Charter 77, the informal Czechoslovakian association formed to oppose the totalitarian governments of the Soviet bloc in the late 1970s. Because the totalitarians have come to America, Charter 24 exists to address the long and growing list of grievances of American citizens. The government – once of, by, and for the people – must now be forced by the people to account for its actions and recommit itself to the nation’s founding principles.

Every government official at every level must immediately cease the following non-exhaustive list of activities, by which they have declared us out of their protection and thus abdicated their right to govern:

- Colluding with intelligence powers either foreign or domestic to deny American citizens their Constitutional rights.
- Incarcerating political prisoners and applying cruel, unusual, and unequal punishments designed to intimidate other citizens from exercising their Constitutional rights.
- Contracting with powerful private corporations to deny First Amendment rights to millions of citizens or to surveil Americans who are not suspected of a crime.
- Obstructing justice by refusing to prosecute high government officials for their high crimes and misdemeanors.
- Seeking or receiving payments from hostile foreign governments, thus opening themselves to the threat of blackmail and putting the nation’s security at risk.
- Populating these United States with illegal aliens.
- Refusing to arrest, prosecute, or incarcerate repeat criminals who are remain free to loot our businesses and occupy our property.
- Aiding or abetting certain groups of citizens in malicious public attacks against business owners for the purpose of destabilizing our society.
- Employing domestic insurrectionists and sex offenders as teachers in our public schools.
- Destroying the economic system of free enterprise, and suppressing our individual rights to engage in the free exchange of goods, services, and ideas.

As signatories, we identify as spokesmen for the Charter, invite others to become signatories, and believe the Charter will help to enable all citizens of the United States to work and live as free human beings under the social contract that no one is above the law.

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