

To my Family,

4th of July, 2014
Independence Day
From Aracca Prison,
Western Australia

Today is the 4th of July in my home country, America. It is a day of carnivals and fireworks, BBQ's and family outings - a day when ~~the~~ ^{our} entire country participates as one from sea to shining sea, in the celebration of America's Independence as a nation.

And see how far we have come from those ancient battlefields, from the signing of our Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and Bill of Rights. ~~through~~ ~~and~~ ~~bill~~

~~But~~ I want you, my Family, to take a moment to ~~also remember~~ ~~to~~ remember what this Day is truly about - the sacrifice of our forebears, through world wars, to establish and preserve the values, principles and ideology upon which America was founded and hard fought for, and as a result, who we are and what it means to be American.

Also, to remember that your son is a prisoner in a foreign country that recognises no rights to any person and actively refuses to grant its people any semblance of a functioning Bill of Rights, that rejects international treaties in practice, resents human rights and mocks our country's Constitution and international charters when one dares to demand basic rights and fair treatment.

Like Peter Greste in Egypt, and so many others around the world, I am not a convict of a crime, but a hostage to injustice, of those mindsets who despise human rights and work to quell any voice attempting to seek such.

But this is not Egypt, nor Iran or some 3rd world country. This is Australia.

And remember, too, your granddaughter - my precious daughter, who, like her father, is kept hostage from you, from me, and from the truth and also from the influence and ideology of her American father. But she will in time know these things, and who her father is, or perhaps was, as an American father and man. She will know her father is a fighter, fought for her, for freedom and justice, and never gave up, which is the epitome of my American nature.

So as this day for you closes, in my home country far on the opposite side of the world, take just a moment before falling to sleep, to reflect on these things, and what this day truly means, what is WTS all about. And tomorrow, strive as we always have - we Americans - to ensure that our values and principles are preserved. For even in the isolation of this remote prison, I endeavor untiringly to do the same.

God bless America and her people.