

# Opening Eyes to the Damage Caused by the Drug War



*Prohibition fails again.*

*“The drug war has arguably been the single most devastating, dysfunctional social policy since slavery.”*

— Norm Stamper, former Seattle Police Chief

(Learn more about cops and judges who oppose the drug war at the link on the back)

## Drugs and Terrorism

The DEA Museum’s “Target America: Opening Eyes to the Damage Drugs Cause” and the earlier “Traffickers, Terrorists and You,” have heavily promoted a connection between drug use and terrorism, even to the point of displaying 911 images and World Trade Center wreckage.

*“there is no reliable evidence that Bin Ladin was involved in or made his money through drug trafficking”*

— 911 Commission Report, page 171

Invoking terrorism in the post-9/11 world is common practice for agencies looking to protect their budgets. But in actuality, to the extent that certain groups of terrorists benefit from the drug trade, it is a direct result of the activities of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the rest of the global drug war structure.

Just as organized crime profited from the prohibition of alcohol, it is criminals (and yes, some terrorists) who profit most from the prohibition of drugs.

***“DEA is unable to demonstrate its progress in reducing the availability of illegal drugs in the U.S.”***

— Performance and Management Assessments (*Source: White House*)

---

### **The DEA's Failed Drug War**

From 1986 to 2005, the DEA seized over 2.6 million pounds of cocaine (*Source: DEA*). Or, to put it another way, they intercepted enough cocaine for every U.S. citizen above the age of 9 to receive a mandatory minimum crack cocaine sentence of 5 years in prison. Yet during the same period, the availability and purity of cocaine increased, and the price dropped significantly (*Source: Washington Ofc. on Latin America*).

From 1970 to 2004, the number of people arrested on drug offenses each year more than quadrupled, and from 1981 to 2000, the federal drug control budget increased 10-fold (*Source: Department of Justice*).

Led by DEA supported task forces, the past 25 years have seen a 1,300% increase in paramilitary raids on American homes, leading to the devastation of communities, and hundreds of deaths of innocents, including 11-year-old Alberto Sepulvada, 14-year-old Ashley Villarreal, and 75-year-old Reverend Accelyne Williams.

There are many more drug war victims at the web address below.

Prohibition is a continually expanding tax-funded war on Americans.

### **But aren't drugs harmful?**

Drugs by themselves — aspirin, alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, cocaine, caffeine, morphine, etc. — are just things. The harm comes from *abuse*, and in this regard, education, regulation, and harm reduction programs have been proven effective. Prohibition, on the other hand, fails to reduce abuse, *and actually increases harm*.

Prohibition makes the black market obscenely profitable (1,000% markups are not uncommon). Prohibition also puts control, safety, distribution, and age regulation in the hands of criminals.

The drug war is a great deal for traffickers, terrorists, and especially the DEA, but not for communities dealing with the war's violence, or the American citizens who pay the bill.

*for much more information and complete sources, go to*

**DEAtargetsAmerica.com**

visit Students for Sensible Drug Policy at [ssdp.org](http://ssdp.org)