

5 Foods you must not eat :  
cut down a bit of stomach fat every  
day by never eating these 5 foods.

[Buy a banner ad!](#)

Never eat



- HOME
  - ABOUT
  - NEWS & EVENTS
  - GEAR
  - CONTACT
- A PIC'S WORTH ...
  - AMERICA
  - GOOD STUFF
  - PALMETTO PULSE
  - SC POLITICS

Home » America » Rich: Rise Of The Police State



## Rich: Rise Of The Police State

By Howard Rich • on June 9, 2011

[Comment](#) [Email](#) [Print](#) [ShareThis](#)

Search...



By [Howard Rich](#) || Earlier this year in Tucson, Arizona a shooting rampage targeting U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords made international news – and prompted a coordinated effort to demonize Tea Party supporters (and free speech itself).

Without knowing the details of the case, Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik immediately blamed the shooting on “the vitriol that comes out of certain mouths about tearing down the government.”

“The anger, the hatred, the bigotry that goes on in this country is getting to be outrageous,” Dupnik said, calling Arizona a “mecca for prejudice and bigotry.”

Obviously, the world quickly learned that Dupnik was flat out wrong in his assessment of the situation. The violence in Tucson was the product of a deranged madman – not a discernible ideology. But that didn’t stop Democratic leaders like U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn from saying that government should “rethink the parameters of free speech” in the wake of the shooting.

Five months after the Giffords’ tragedy, another fatal shooting took place in Tucson – only this one didn’t make international headlines. It has also failed to produce so much as a peep of disapproval from those who were so outraged earlier this year.

On May 5, 2011 – deputies and “operators” of the Pima County Sheriff’s Office raided the home of 26-year-old Jose Guerena, a U.S. Marine who served two tours in Iraq in 2003 and 2005. Having just fallen asleep after working the night shift at a local mine, Guerena was roused by his wife, Vanessa – who saw a man with a gun outside of the couple’s bedroom window. Thinking his home was being invaded, Guerena grabbed his rifle.

What happened next?

SWAT “operators” – executing a narcotics warrant – broke into Guerena’s home and fired 72 rounds within a matter of seconds, hitting him 22 times. Guerena’s five-year-old son, Joel, watched his father die. Initially, Pima County Sheriff’s investigators said that Guerena had fired his weapon at police officers. That report turned out to be patently false. In fact, Guerena never removed the safety from his rifle.

Also Guerena’s wife is adamant that the officers did not identify themselves as law enforcement

### Meet 50+ Singles [See All](#)

	<b>CarrieJames4563</b> Single and over 50? Meet 1000s of 50+ single women near you.
	<b>Dave'sRightHere</b> Date 50+ men in your area today! See who's out there!

[SeniorPeopleMeet.com](#) [Browse for free](#)

[Order a 300x250!](#)

Enter your email below to subscribe to FITSNews.

Email Address...

[Executive Physicals](#)  
PartnerMD provides peace of mind with preventive health assessments  
[www.partnermd.com](http://www.partnermd.com)

[Social Anxiety Help](#)  
Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, affordable, gay-affirming  
[www.SocialAnxietyHelp.com](http://www.SocialAnxietyHelp.com)

[Kundalini Yoga-Alexandria](#)  
Classes Workshops Private Sessions Corporate Packages Available  
[3ho.org/teacher/nataliearbuckle](http://3ho.org/teacher/nataliearbuckle)

[QUEST Maryland](#)  
Summer day camp Social Skills / ADHD Coed Ages 6-14  
[www.questmaryland.com](http://www.questmaryland.com)

AdChoices

## TODAY'S TUNEAGE

agents until after the raid was completed. No drugs were found in the home – and it was later revealed that Guereña's brother was the real target of the investigation.

Sadly, these fatal mistakes are occurring with increasing frequency. Last September in Utah, a SWAT team fatally shot Todd Blair three times in the head and chest during a hastily-planned raid – even though he wasn't the person sought by the narcotics warrant. Last May in Detroit, 7-year-old Aiyana Jones was shot and killed while sleeping on the sofa during a raid filmed by reality TV cameras.

Part of the problem is obviously the vast expansion of the police state in America. According to Americans for SWAT Reform, more than 50,000 raids take place annually in the United States. Thirty years ago, there were less than 3,000 raids a year.

Another contributing factor is the steady militarization of local law enforcement.

"The war on drugs has done incalculable damage to the character of law enforcement by encouraging police officers to forget they are civilians," writes David Rittgers, a legal analyst at the Cato Institute who served three tours in Afghanistan.

"When police officers refer to their fellow citizens as civilians and mean to exclude themselves from that category, they've mentally leapt from enforcing the law to destroying the enemies of the state," Rittgers continued. "That's incompatible with a free society."

Also, the definition of what constitutes a "SWAT-worthy" offense has broadened considerably – as multiple federal agencies now reserve the right to knock down your door for virtually any reason.

For example, earlier this week a SWAT team raided a home in California – roughing up a man whose estranged wife had failed to pay back her student loans. What agency issued the warrant for this raid? The U.S. Department of Education – which recently purchased more than two dozen 12-gauge shotguns to help prevent "waste, fraud, abuse and other criminal activity involving federal education funds, programs and operations."

Government apologists can deny it all they want, but the fact is that we are witnessing a massive build-up of the American police state at all levels of government – with repercussions that diminish our liberties and threaten our very lives.

After all, the next door to be knocked down could very well be yours.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Howard Rich is chairman of *Americans for Limited Government*. He is also a syndicated columnist for *Liberty Features*. To read more of his columns, [click here](#).

Follow FITSNews on [Twitter](#) and like us on [Facebook](#)

Tags: Clarence Dupnik, Gabrielle Giffords, Jim Clyburn, Jose Guereña, Police State, SWAT, Tucson Arizona

8  8 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

Share

**fitsnews.com**  
Unfair. Imbalanced.

**DONATE**

5 tweets  
retweet

## RELATED ENTRIES

Sources: Howard Rich In SC

"He Got What He Deserved"

SC Warrantless Searches: Who Said What?

Mitt's Millions

Rise Of The Welfare State

## RECENT ENTRIES

How Jim Clyburn Rolls

Danny Cooper And SC's Corruption Wheel

Lend A Helping "Habele"

USC To Approve 3.9% Tuition Hike

Today's Tunage: Undone

## COMMENTS



By L Bonafied June 9, 2011 at 5:05 pm

Richland County is an EXCELLENT case of militarized local law enforcement; they have an APC for God's sake! WTF is that for?



Download on iTunes

## PALMETTO PULSE

PPP Poll: Haley Approval Rating At 42%

Wes Donehue: Loving Jesus, Hating Ass Clowns

SC Democrats Slam Haley, McConnell

Haley To Call Lawmakers Into Emergency Session

Nikki Haley Versus Jackie Knotts ... Again

Mitt Romney's People Are Creative

Letter: Stop Drinking The Tea!

### Recommendations



Meet Abi Marie :: :: FITSNewsFITSNews  
47 people shared this.



PPP Poll: Haley Approval Rating At 42% :: :: FITSNewsFITSNews  
35 people shared this.



Harpootlian: It's Time To Get The Children Out Of The State House. :: :: FITSNewsFITSNews  
28 people shared this.



SCGOP Targets Sheheen's District :: :: FITSNewsFITSNews  
24 people shared this.

Facebook social plugin

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

There's another Mike Bellamy C.R.E.A.M. pic out there ... <http://bit.ly/kdNinN> 10 minutes ago

How Jim Clyburn Rolls <http://bit.ly/jlgYWf> #sctweets #politics 11 minutes ago

Very very important lunch meeting today. Fantasy baseball rosters/ statistics have been printed in anticipation. There will be trades. 12 minutes ago

@KatieWiederman Yeah ... he and Avila (who I inexplicably benched) are tonning it this week. Grrrr. 13 minutes ago

@nikkihaley played Black Eyed Peas at this AM's big Boeing event. At least this time it wasn't the theme for disenfranchising black voters. 30 minutes ago

## NEWS & EVENTS

SC Attorney General Files Brief Against NLRB

SC Manufacturers Intervene In Supreme Court Case

Harpootlian: It's Time To Get The Children Out Of The State House.

Truth In Politics: On McConnell V. Haley



By [snodgrass](#) June 9, 2011 at 5:23 pm  
By [Old Bike Dude](#) June 9, 2011 at 5:26 pm

Ron Paul is the only candidate in the race who has even expressed concern about this.  
Serious story written by a major asshole.



By [Cancerman](#) June 9, 2011 at 5:41 pm

Goddamn if its not the fucking undertaker again fuck him and the teabaggers!!



By [Godslayer](#) June 9, 2011 at 5:56 pm

The War on Drugs is over. Drugs won.



By [BradWarthenSucks](#) June 9, 2011 at 6:07 pm

Considering most cops are nothing more than Barney Fife or a redneck with a pistol I'm never surprised with these stories. If they had brains they'd go into a line of work that would pay above minimum wage.



By [Brakeman](#) June 9, 2011 at 6:21 pm

What is the libertarian answer to America's drug problem?



By [Adam](#) June 9, 2011 at 6:27 pm

"In fact, Guerena never removed the safety from his rifle." Don't point rifles at cops. Safety or no safety he had a gun pointed at cops, thats a good way to get shot.



By [Jeffery](#) June 9, 2011 at 6:29 pm

These are not "operators". Operators are top tier of the military. SWAT Teams are a sub warrior class of idiots who like to dress up and play army. Watching the video of the Pima county sheriffs office raid was actually funny to me. Someone with a little more training could have dominated that situation when all the so called "operators" tried to enter the door at the same time. I would love to see training videos of these jackasses in a shoothouse. Rest in peace Marine. I'm ashamed of this country for what it has become. It's sad to see a man survive combat so a bunch kitted up stateside cowards can kick in his door and kill him when he's half asleep.



By [Soft Sigh from Hell](#) June 9, 2011 at 6:38 pm

Every Barney Fife wants to be SWAT. Every department or agency of any size now wants their special weapons and tactics teams to swagger about and preen. And imagine they are SEAL. Sure SLED needs a real one, and a few larger cities and counties warrant them, but everybody seems to "organize" one now. As if, say, the Swansea volunteer fire department had a special skyscraper fire team because it was the cool thing to have among departments.

The National Park Service has a special tactics team for god sakes, or maybe had one. A number of years back these clowns were "targeting" the Blue Ridge Parkway and harassing everyone of a offbeat look (which to a "supercop" is just about anyone with notable hair) until a US Congressman from NC called the head of the US Park Service at home on that weekend and told him to get those idiots out of there, they were ruining a big local festival in the mountains. It was all in the papers.

Speaking of overboard national park rangers, the law enforcement versions that is, not the nice guides, the ones at Congaree have started off with a

Le Creuset Announces Expansion In Hampton County

**DONATE**

pretty poor reputation. It's fine that NPS cops get trained as cops and are  
 t command voice" but someone with a brain would know it comes  
 v off SWAT and it's inappropriate to, for one example, a 12-year  
 c parent just innocently enjoying a walk on the boardwalk. Maybe  
 she had a leaf in her hand. I've heard the tales from a few totally independent  
 people now.



By Soft Sigh from Hell June 9, 2011 at 6:40 pm

By chuck123 June 9, 2011 at 6:49 pm  
 klegs do nothing for respect for law enforcement.



For over twenty-five years I have become increasingly concerned about this  
 rate of increased militarization by our law enforcement {LE} agencies. Having  
 done this sort of thing for many years in the military I can only say former  
 Marine Guerena is another fatally tragic victim of flawed policy and  
 inadequate training.

The given reason for this type action was to keep any evidence from being  
 destroyed. But then after that seven second fusilade another 40 minutes was  
 lost before LE finally entered the building in search of that high risk evidence.  
 The results? A potentially valuable witness dead and NO ONE arrested at any  
 of the locations.

Now.....if this had been a true military operation {military, not militarized} then  
 the objectives would have been met and no one would likely have died. I  
 speak through my own experience which is why I will only categorize this as I  
 have above. Unfortunately, Pima county will probably become bankrupt from  
 the justifiable lawsuits looming on the horizon.



By Crime Fighter June 9, 2011 at 6:57 pm

Fits: Your article is pure hyperbole. SWAT is a useful tool when properly  
 employed and led. The keys are proper leadership and a target centric  
 approach.



By Soft Sigh from Hell June 9, 2011 at 7:17 pm

"when properly employed and led"

Not too many would argue against that. It's the when not.



By Jan June 9, 2011 at 7:26 pm

What a load of malarkey. After 9-11 you right wing tea party types were falling  
 all over yourselves to turn Bush into a military dictator. Authorizing him to  
 arrest people without a warrant, listen in on private phone conversations,  
 look at bank accounts without notifying the holder and without probable  
 cause, and to declare US citizens enemy combatants and send them to a  
 military prison without access to legal counsel or a hearing. If the US is  
 becoming a police state it is your own doing.

Please Mr. Bush, protect FITS from the Muslims. We'll give up anything, we'll let  
 you do anything. All because you were terrified of some guy hold up in a  
 house in Pakistan watching videos of himself and porn.

As for those of us who tried to sound the alarm back then, all we can say now  
 is, I told you so.



By Cheraw#1 June 9, 2011 at 7:26 pm

You might be glad law enforcement is militarized when the economy really  
 gets bad and the "takers" in our society riot.



By Paco Sanchez June 9, 2011 at 7:27 pm

Hey dumbass. I see you're giving the boss some promo. Good career move,  
 but you must have forgotten to tell him he's supposed to bash Nikki Haley in  
 every post.



By Are you shittin' me? June 9, 2011 at 7:39 pm



Which 'takers' are you referring to? The rich takers or the poor takers? I am not so sure which would be worse. The stupid takers got us to this point.

By eggaday June 9, 2011 at 8:23 pm  
 Defend Esch people with absolutely no opinion that they were wrong or educate? Impress the rest of the state private school neighborhoods. The rest of us who paid for our homes, cars and educations are the ones that should be worried. We are going to be outnumbered by the takers.



By Billy Bob June 9, 2011 at 8:41 pm  
 Yo Howie!! Go fuck yourself and the Koch brothers!!!



By Billy Bob June 9, 2011 at 8:45 pm

Dam!! I was going to actually donate \$25 to this site. Glad I caught this crap in time!! Maybe Howie or the Koch brothers can do better!! Just a working man here. I could have eaten PB&Js next week for the \$25!!



By Holy Hypocrites Batman! June 9, 2011 at 9:03 pm

My question to the author is how narrow can anyone be????? The death of that Marine is a tragedy-no doubt. But did it ever occur to this idiot that the police militarization has grown in direct proportion to the need for it to? How many criminals are carrying military type weapons, grenades, etc.? Enough to scare the bejeezus out of most of us.

Police have had no choice but to fight fire with fire to survive. In the case of this Marine, the people involved should be held accountable to the highest degree, there is no excuse for such behavior. And to be fair, although it may not have been the case here, many veterans have had problems on returning and a certain amount of caution may have been in order. BUT this incident is not an excuse to preach about the militarization of police.

Ranting of this caliber is what has turned America into a society of politically correct hypocrites. I wish some of these people could realize that. Not everything can be nice, not everything can be fair and not everything can be done perfectly because we are all human and none of us is perfect. This sort of ranting has tied the police's hand on way too many things-which ends up hurting everyone. And coincidentally, this guy would be the first one raving if police didn't show up to the door, properly outfitted and saved his butt if something awful ever happened to him or his family.



By Oink June 9, 2011 at 9:16 pm

In related vein . . .

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/courts-law/supreme-court-says-fleeing-from-police-in-a-car-can-be-considered-a-violent-felony/2011/06/09/AGDC2HNH\\_story.html?hpid=z4](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/courts-law/supreme-court-says-fleeing-from-police-in-a-car-can-be-considered-a-violent-felony/2011/06/09/AGDC2HNH_story.html?hpid=z4)



By BIN News Editorial Staff June 9, 2011 at 10:07 pm

After reading this post our Funding Editor puked her third Metamucil and triple Black Jack cocktail into her pantyhose as she tried to scream out: "What a wacko!!"

When her Chief of Stiff asked her, "Who, sic(k) willie or Howie the Voucher Clown," she coughed up the olive from her last cocktail and said, "Both of them are stoned wackos."

Our Funding Editor does not seem to have any respect for sic(k) willie or Howie the Voucher Clown. Surprised? No. Most people don't.



By Shlomo June 9, 2011 at 10:07 pm

Something rings false about this column, which otherwise reads as if it were written by the editor of the school newspaper at a mediocre private academy.

And the truth is, Howard Rich would be very happy with a police state run by

Howard Rich.

Pingback: [NC Tea Party News | Tea Party of North Carolina](#)  
He's a fascist wolf in libertarian sheep's clothing. Sheep don't lick their own balls like this.



By [WorkingTommyC](#) June 10, 2011 at 8:16 am  
"The next door to be knocked down could very well be yours."  
Good article.  
"Very well?"

Very well, I'll bet Howard Rich a million dollars that it won't be, and let's see if he'll put his dough where his slimy mouth is.



By [Huhnr???](#) June 10, 2011 at 8:55 am

Shlomo, ain't that the truth?

And, Billy Bob, if Rich/Cato/Koch won't support Sic, he needs to get a real job. Of course, he has probably sufficiently fouled his own nest, that will never happen...hope his wife works for the state.



By Answer for Brakeman June 10, 2011 at 9:44 am

"What is the libertarian answer to America's drug problem?"

Answer: The Portugal model, legalize drug use and watch across the board drug usage drop(Heroin use went down 50% in 10 years).

Take all the money spent on "fighting drugs" and feed some poor people and reduce the debt.

You can imagine how much money we spend as a nation on this "war"(unsuccessfully). Add up the foreign aid to latin american countries(in return for their gov't cooperation), drug units in all the stateside PD's, their "tools"(like APC's), court costs, CIA fuding, prisons et al at both state and federal levels and it's a huge amount of money. Last I could find was over \$140 billion in 2005..I'll bet that number is much bigger today.

[briancbennett.com/charts/fed-data/costs/real-costs05.htm](http://briancbennett.com/charts/fed-data/costs/real-costs05.htm)

I'd rather save the jail space for violent criminals.



By The thin blue line June 10, 2011 at 10:45 am

Anyone want to venture a guess at the number of police officers killed in the line of duty so far this year? I'll give you the answer, its up 8% so far over the number killed over the same peroid of time in 2010. The number of officers killed in the line of duty by gunfire has increased 35% over the same period of time in 2010.

So you "theoretical politicians" who sit at home in front of your computer, debating the nuances of policy about some obscure economic theory are welcome to apply for the job of police officer. Come out and join the fun of keeping your community safe, at the request of the citizens who feel free to criticize your actions with all the clarity and time that hindsight can offer.

Enjoy the subtle thrill of a criminal sexual assault, missing child or runaway where you, new police officer, will be expected to repair the broken lives that are left behind.

Finally, there is the awesome fun that comes from attempting to arrest the very people that seek to do harm to you and others. The fights, stabbings and shooting that happen in the wee hours of the morning. You, new police officer, will be called when no one else is there to answer. You, new police officer, will be expected to make a life or death decision in the blink of an eye. You, new police officer, will be exposed to second-guessing, Monday-morning quarterbacking and "expert analysis" by people who have never seen the ugly side of humanity and what man can do to his fellow man.

This can all be yours for the yearly salary of right around \$35,000 a year.... Any takers???

So, argue whether narcotics should be legalized, thieves should be in jail or the proper amount of therapy for child abusers; as long as there are laws,

there will be those few brave souls who will enforce them. And you can thank  
By The thin blue line June 10, 2011 at 10:48 am  
c  
e brave souls for the ability to have the civil discourse you enjoy.



P.S.

Howard, stick to something you know, real estate.

## LEAVE A REPLY

Name \*

Email \*

Website

**POST COMMENT**

Notify me of followup comments via e-mail

A PIC'S WORTH ...

AMERICA

GOOD STUFF

PALMETTO PULSE

SC POLITICS

SPORTS

STAR STUFF