

LINKS, 9/6/11

Remember that top DHS cybersecurity official who quit in June? He's now working for Sony, which badly needs help protecting their users' privacy.

In their latest installment reporting on the NYPD's "CIA-on-the-Hudson," Goldman and Apuzzo reveal that the NYPD's spooks have 250 mosques and student groups under surveillance.

Jeffrey Bloomberg reports on Robert Gates bitching about Israel and specifically Bibi Netanyahu for being ungrateful for US efforts to protect Israel's interests. But he then concludes that the US should nevertheless go to the mat to oppose Palestinian statehood in the UNSC.

Mitch McConnell is cross with Obama because he's not sending American jobs to Korea fast enough, and not asking Americans to compete against workers who will be killed for organizing fast enough.

This article suggests the rising middle class in developing nations may demand a new focus on getting rid of corruption and expanding democracy. While I'm dubious about this claim generally—it uses the World Bank's measure for middle class, which is shockingly low, to show the ballooning of the middle class, but then uses Pew results for middle class attitudes—I do wonder whether the reverse is happening in the US, as more and more people fall out of the middle class.

The AP's headline suggests that Americans are willing to trade civil liberties to protect against terrorism. But poll results seem to say a majority do not want to make that trade—which I believe is a swing back in favor of civil liberties and (for the question on torture) human rights.

This DKos diary anecdotally quantifies austerity at the state level: a couple, both of whom work

for the WI state government, who will see \$500 less a month in their paycheck because of Scott Walker's new deductions. That adds up to \$20M taken out of the WI economy immediately. Note, this has been going on for part time workers for some years—it's what the declining average hours worked in BLS surveys translate into.

The DC District Court upheld a District Court ruling that DOJ should turn over at least some of the information ACLU FOIAed on the government's use of cell phone tracking in criminal prosecutions. DOJ is hiding that cell phone tracking info like a crown jewel—I would imagine things may get interesting when DOJ releases this stuff.

AlterNet has a list of 5 brands to avoid if you're trying to avoid war profiteers: BP, FedEx, Dell, Kraft, and Pepsi.

A blogger who, after receiving the full gate grope treatment, called it rape on her blog. Now, the TSA Agent who administered the gate grope is suing for \$500,000.