

# Police Stalking, Police Criminality, and Human Rights

*How new policing methods can undermine the rule of law and modern liberal judicial philosophy*

## About



(<https://policestalking.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/rv4.jpg>)

I am Reidar Visser, an historian with a PhD in Middle Eastern studies from the University of Oxford. I have published three books on the history and politics of Iraq ([http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_ss\\_i\\_0\\_8/189-4486464-4552723?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=reidar+visser&srefix=reidar+v%2Caps%2C210](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_0_8/189-4486464-4552723?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=reidar+visser&srefix=reidar+v%2Caps%2C210)), as well as numerous academic articles on federalism, constitutional change and rule of law issues. My articles for Foreign Affairs are available here (<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/author/reidar-visser>); my op-ed for The New York Times on the end of the Iraq War is here ([http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/16/opinion/an-unstable-divided-land.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/16/opinion/an-unstable-divided-land.html?_r=0)). I have frequently given invited presentations on Iraq-related subjects for organisations like the CIA, the State Department and the Pentagon. For my work on deconstructing the dominant narratives on Iraqi politics, I have been called “a one-man truth squad”.

I am also Reidar Visser, a twenty-first century witch, Foucault’s modern madman, the enfant terrible of liberal Western civilisation. Since February 2011, I have been chased and harassed extra-judicially 24/7 by police and state-sponsored vigilantes in altogether 14 countries in Europe, North America, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific. The reason for my predicament is a “crime” which is not a crime: Street photography for a fashion history project. I am a victim of the monstrosity and depravity of pseudo-liberal governments in Norway and the Netherlands, yet I keep dragging my sorry case across the continents in the hope that somewhere there may be a government that actually respects one of the most fundamental of human rights – the presumption of innocence. So far my strange brand of human rights tourism has taken me from Norway to the UK, the USA, Canada, Qatar, Jordan, Switzerland, Italy, France and the Netherlands. I am currently in a country in the Asia-Pacific region where the mistreatment continues and where day and night I am harassed by plainclothes police officers.

Many would say the discrepancy between these two descriptions of myself are tragic. Some may consider me insane; others might consider my predicament as an obvious rationale for suicide. Suicide certainly seems to be the goal of the police officers that keep harassing me without having any apparent goals defined in conventional judicial terms. But I am not going to make it that simple for them. Ever the historian, instead of spending time lamenting my misery, I will try instead to focus on the penetrating insights in the workings of the perverted modern state that I

gain from my travails. When their harassment methods get more intrusive, I try to think fieldwork and unique source proximity. Instead of contemplating suicide, I dream of publishing my fourth book. The more they mistreat me, the more I will endeavour to write – both about the criminals that chase me and their cowardly sponsors in high places in the governments of Norway and the Netherlands.

Despite the horror that I am going through, I try to appreciate my newfound knowledge about the scandalous state of our Western, “rational” bureaucracies. I now better understand how Western policy in complex settings like the Middle East can go so horribly wrong. With the academic discoveries I make about our time and the shallowness of our own civilisation, my own pain becomes somewhat meaningful, too. In that kind of perspective, this is not the biggest tragedy of my life; rather, it is the biggest scoop I ever made as an historian. Through writing, I can try to take back what the so-called *rechtsstaat* of Norway never granted me: Due process, and the right to explain my case.

In this way, my Flying Dutchman journey is not only one of suffering but also one of discovery. Consider it an experiment in social science and contemporary history: My strange case relating to street photography travels across boundaries and cultures, yet it prompts surprisingly stereotypic, savage and intolerant responses across the board, in democratic and non-democratic states alike. This in turn opens up a number of interesting perspectives. It suggests that, when it comes to basic judicial notions like the presumption of innocence, the distinction between advanced, Western liberal democracies and other polities is grossly exaggerated. Similarly, the “rule of law culture” associated with modern Western democracies in my experience comes across as only skin deep. When it comes to judicial culture, post-modernity, it seems, is nothing more than a façade to mask how fragile and reversible the Western transition from traditional society to modernity really is. Police state tendencies can be found in Norway as they can be found in Qatar; in many cases international police cooperation and the burgeoning NYPDfication of European policing do away with notions of national sovereignty entirely. In brief, my radical thesis is that in several Western countries, the concept of rule of law is nothing more than empty fiction .

I am well aware that in establishing credibility for such a radical perspective, I am facing enormous challenges – especially with regard to communicating to the two very different groups that make up my potential readership.

Firstly, there is the tiny minority of people around the world who know about my affair because they have participated or are still participating in the operation against me. Their numbers are not big: Maybe 150 in Oslo (Norway) where the operation began in 2011; 300 in places I visited for shorter periods during March-June 2011 in the UK, US, Canada, Qatar, Jordan, France and Italy; 700 in Noordwijk in the Netherlands (where I stayed from July 2011 to January 2012); 700 in Maasdam in the Netherlands (where I was from January to July 2012); and finally another 200 where I currently am (a capital city in the Asia-Pacific region). That’s no more than around 2,000. Given that many of these people have cooperated illegally with the police, it seems unlikely they will ever come forward to confirm my story even though they are in a position to do so.

Secondly, there is the vast majority of potential readers who have never heard of what I describe. They will likely think that my narrative is unbelievable, that the charges I bring against celebrated democracies are just too monstrous to be true, and that I may well be suffering from a number of psychiatric illnesses.

To those who think I am now crazy, please consider that every blog post (<http://gulfanalysis.wordpress.com>), scientific article and op-ed that I have published since 12 February 2011 (and each of my 3,500 tweets) has been authored under the duress that I am trying to describe. That is a large body of scholarship (<http://historiae.org>) available for scrutiny and screening for possible traces of madness. To those familiar with my Iraq scholarship, I solemnly swear every word I write about police stalking is just as close to the truth as anything I have ever written on Iraq.

Please remember also that this is not the first time I have been considered an academic lunatic. Remember Iraq’s dark days of 2006, when I stoically maintained that the country would survive in one piece, and when just about every pundit in DC dismissed me as a nationalist dogmatic for not embracing “soft partition”? Well, look where we are today. Iraq still stands; the interpretation of the lunatic prevailed. Why not instead take into account the possibility that I may be a rare case of an articulate subaltern, speaking a language that academics understand, and describing, as a subject, police mistreatment that is usually meted out to people who may be less likely to write about it: The homeless, prostitutes, drug addicts and other marginalised enemies of the state. With the ferocity and the bluntness of the operation carried out against me – who was always a potential whistle-blower – how much more can there be hidden beneath the tip of the iceberg? When the police in a country with a pristine democracy reputation like Norway can work like this, how do you think conditions are in states with far worse human rights rankings?

Away from this blog, I am pursuing several long-term goals. These include activism on the part of other victims of police criminality and police stalking; the completion, using alternate sources, of my street fashion history project that was criminalized by Norwegian police and led them to target me in the first place; and writing a blow by blow account of my experiences with police stalking.

Above all, after more than 550 days of around the clock extra-judicial punishment, I hope to lift the debate about my case from the question of the virtues or otherwise of my photographic activity, to the bigger issue of why I, as a controversial photographer, am not entitled to exactly the same legal protection as the terrorist, the rapist and the paedophile. It is a source of some considerable irony to me that I was applauded back in 2010 for my work demanding due process and the presumption of innocence for members of the Saddam regime in Iraq. They may well have included rapists and murderers, but I always defended their right to a fair trial when it was in jeopardy due to vigilantism sponsored by political parties inside the Iraqi government. When I today trumpet the same due-process rights to for controversial photographers in Norway, people react with fear and suspect I may be mad.

Through my writings I hope to show that the principles of presumption of innocence, no punishment without law and the right to appear before a court must apply as much in Norway as they do in Iraq, regardless of whether the alleged crime relates to murder or photography. In the second when claims to respect human rights lose their universality, they become a joke.

*Feel free to write to me: reidarvisser (at) gmail.com*

*On Twitter: <http://twitter.com/reidarvisser> (<http://twitter.com/reidarvisser>)*

## 8 Comments to “About”

**Hmmm** says:

*November 4, 2012 at 6:22 am*

Her er noen som drøfter din blogg :

<http://forum.hegnar.no/thread.asp?id=2141554>

Innlegg av: CS\_invest (03.10.12 22:18 ), lest 410 ganger

Ticker: DNO

RE^1: DNO 7:1

Prøv hellere at lese det – du vil bli mildt sakt overrasket. Reidar Vissar var/er forsker ved Nupi, har hatt en rekke analyser, bla. sterkt kritiske til at DNO gikk inn, og med sterk advarsel om at Statoil skulle åpne kontor i Arbil (Erbil).

Februar 2011 – blir han fotfulgt av politi.

Så – enten er han blitt akutt paranoid (men da besynderlig at han ikke hverken er innlagt eller blitt sagt opp fra sin stilling) – eller også er det skjedd et eller annet som betinger at han daglig fotfølges (“advares”).

RE^1: DNO 7:1

Det som slår meg er at han har jevnt over (har dann og vann lest disse opp gjennom tiden) presentert saklige analyser (mulig ikke alle korrekte i etterkant).

Og så endrer alt sig – iøvrig rett etter valget (hvor bla. første avtale om eksport mellom Maliki og Kurderne ble inngått).

Innlegg av: CS\_invest (03.10.12 23:02 ), lest 214 ganger

Ticker: DNO

RE^1: DNO 7:1

Vet ikke eksakt. Men mannen har hatt en ikke ubetydelig innflytelse på utforming av norsk Irak-politikk, herunder dermed også hvordan Statoil skal sees her.

Det vil ikke vere umulig (det vil rent faktisk vere sannsynlig at han har vert på flere møter på høyt plan).

Etter nevnte nye regjering – og hvor han går med et kamera som gatefotograf – endres hele sin verden?

Jeg synes absolutt det er tankevekkende. Kan noen høyt på strå vere bekymret for HVA han fotograferte – og ville gi en advarsel. Det beskrevne hendte iøvrig under Storberget's tid som justitsminister.

Innlegg av: oneeyedcat (03.10.12 23:09 ), lest 176 ganger

Ticker: DNO

RE^1: DNO 7:1

CS\_invest:

Visser skriver om "police stalking", og du nevner at han kanskje må "advares". Kan det være at mannen ikke er gal, men at det er viktig at han ikke uttrykker seg kritisk til norske selskapers virksomhet i kurdistan nå som stl kanskje lukter på en inntreden?

Innlegg av: CS\_invest (03.10.12 23:15 ), lest 154 ganger

Ticker: DNO

RE^1: DNO 7:1

Det er en mulighet. En annen er selvsagt at han plutselig er blitt spinngal. Men da er det rart at han fremdeles står som tilsatt hos Nupi – og skriver rimelig sammenhengende. Og iøvrig en noen høy alder (statistisk) at bli fullstendig gal i.

Om ikke han er gal – så er han utsatt for et overgrep som alene er nokk til at for godt fjerne såvel den overordnede politiperson som har ansvar som den justitsminister som står over denne og.

Mulig er det samme som "ble gået" etter 22/7 – vet ikke det. Men om de stod bak dette – snakker vi ikke bare om at gå, men henholdsvis fengselsstraff og riksrett.

**Reidar Visser** says:

*November 5, 2012 at 5:34 am*

Thanks for the link. I'm glad that some DNO shareholders found my writings informative even if I wrote them from a perspective that involved criticism of foreign oil companies operating in Kurdistan. It is helpful to me when at least some people with a completely different ideological perspective find it difficult to believe that I have gone mad!

I guess my story should also help lay to rest any suggestions that I was deeply involved with the Norwegian prime minister's office or the foreign ministry in a conspiracy against DNO in Kurdistan. The point that I have made consistently since 2005 – that a deal with profit payment for Kurdistan oil was going to be complicated – still stands as far as I am able to see.

**Hmmm** says:

*November 5, 2012 at 1:06 pm*

Have you reported your case to the UN committee on torture?

**Hmmm** says:

*November 5, 2012 at 1:33 pm*

Yet another link:

<https://www.stocktalk.no/Msg.asp?GroupID=1&Group=in+the+pit+-+oslo+b%F8rs&TopicID=43910&Topic=DNO+Ekspport%2C+betaling+og+full+reprising&Keyword=DNO&Pos=425>

Fanatic

20.09.2012 08:07

#25243

Endre Mat for gorwell?

How the Norwegian Government Brought an End to My Iraq Research – Posted by Reidar Visser on September 19, 2012

dkinvest2

20.09.2012 08:16

#1364

Endre Har da sett børsmeldinger komme halv 9 også...

dnoond

20.09.2012 08:34

#7466

Endre Har lige gennemgået gårsdagens handler – tænk sig hvor meget rigere man kunne være ved backtrading.

You never know

20.09.2012 08:36

#4195

Endre Får en ikke noe melding før børsåpning så gir det jo en anledning til å laste mer på greie kurser.

typhoon.no

20.09.2012 08:37

#1837

Endre Fanatic

Merkelig historie.

Kanskje er det så enkelt at Politiet er long DNO eller har DNOI kledd seg ut som politi?

Fanatic

20.09.2012 08:39

#25244

Endre Enten er Reidar Visser blitt totalt paranoid, eller så foregår det veldig merkelige ting i samfunnet vårt. De brukte store ressurser på å forfølge og plage ham i tiden Breivik planla sin aksjon, ifølge Visser selv.

Rally

20.09.2012 08:45

#4043

Endre Visser har vel aldri hatt noen høy stjerne her inne. Jeg fikk inntrykk at han stod i ledetog med Bagdad(Iran?) ut fra vinklingene på hans innlegg. De var til de grader ensidige. Kanskje POT har sett det samme. Ellers så er vel det generelle inntrykket at verken POT eller Politiet består av de skarpeste knivene i skuffen.

Når det gjelder melding om betaling, så tror jeg den (første) pressemeldingen kommer fra KRG. DNO gjør ikke som Hayward, men lar KRG styre showet.

Men vi har enda ikke funnet ut trumfkortet til atomforskeren. Den avtalen som er inngått nå er ikke den endelige. Det kan være noe taktikkeri i forberedelsen til slaget om Kirkuk.

To sum up the commenter is speculating whether PST (Police Security Service) are doing this because of the supposed political favoritism towards Baghdad/Iran displayed in Reidar Vissers writings.

**redecomposition** says:

*November 19, 2012 at 12:23 am*

Hi Reidar. You haven't posted in a while. As you once suggested I started a blog myself.

<http://redecomposition.wordpress.com/>

formerly tikraine

**Reidar Visser** says:

*November 19, 2012 at 12:34 am*

Thanks, will definitely read it later today. Also realised one of your comments on a different post hadn't been published and was still in the queue for some reason. Have fixed that now.

**Evidence** says:

*November 21, 2012 at 6:17 pm*

Dear Reidar,

Would you be able to provide your readers with more evidence at some point?

It's not that I don't believe you, however I am very interested in reviewing any evidence you have.

**Reidar Visser** says:

*November 22, 2012 at 12:09 am*

It would be a great help if a Norwegian journalist could ask the following questions regarding the Oslo police:

<https://policestalking.wordpress.com/2012/10/31/holding-undercover-cops-accountable-at-home-and-abroad-examples-from-the-uk-lessons-for-norway/>

Given the seriousness of the accusations I am making, it is amazing that no one dares to answer (or even ask) those specific questions.

Create a free website or blog at WordPress.com. The Manifest Theme.