

## Wieseltier on bin Laden

Michael Sean Winters | May. 3, 2011 | Distinctly Catholic

Leon Wieseltier, at the New Republic, opines on the reaction to the killing of Osama bin Laden. The key takeaway, commenting on the scene outside the White House Sunday night: "The scene was boorish, of course. Triumphalism is often not a pretty thing. But still distinctions had to be made. This crowd burned nobody in effigy, nobody's flag, nobody's books. It had assembled to celebrate an entirely defensible act, whose justice could be proven on more than merely nationalistic grounds. After all, Osama bin Laden killed even more Muslims than Americans, and represented one of the most poisonous ideas of our time: the restoration, by means of sanctified violence, of a human world without rights. There is no decent man or woman anywhere?and the democratizing Arab street has shown this most starkly?who does not wish to see this armed political theology defeated. If any death justifies rejoicing, the death of Osama bin Laden does."

The full article is [here](#) [1].

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[1] <http://www.tnr.com/article/politics/87771/osama-bin-laden-white-house-obama-celebration>