

Bradley Smith (1930-2016)

By **Alexander Baron** - Feb 20, 2016



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The death has been announced of Bradley R. Smith, the controversial free speech advocate and proselytiser of the supposedly so controversial subject that can be discussed in the *despotic* Iran but not in *democratic* Germany. I met Bradley only the once, back in December 2006 at the landmark conference in Tehran.

Born February 18, 1930, he lived a full life, serving in the Korean War in which he was twice wounded. He had his first taste of notoriety in 1961 when he was prosecuted for selling *Tropic Of Cancer*, a book that, first published at Paris in 1934, was banned in the land of the free and the home of the brave on account of its explicit sexual content. Nowadays of course, anything goes, as **Cole Porter said**.

Smith received considerable support in his principled stand for freedom of expression. Two decades later, the same type of people who had supported him turned on him viciously when he threw his weight behind a far more controversial and important issue than mere smut.

In 1997, Smith relocated to Mexico with his Mexican wife where he continued his publishing work, which will continue now that he is gone.

In 2002, he published his autobiography, controversially titled *Break His Bones*. This is still being offered for sale on Amazon in spite of pressure not to mention wailing and whining from a certain organisation that roots for the underdog and the oppressed out of one side of its mouth while supporting the murder of innocents in the Middle East out of the other side.

In 2009, he began a series of YouTube presentations which continued until 2011. He had been ill for some time and had been having medical treatment. He died on his birthday. He will be missed by all his colleagues and virtual colleagues worldwide.

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