

BUSH, CHENEY, RUMSFELD & ASHCROFT:



WAR CRIMINALS

"To initiate a war of aggression, therefore, is not only an international crime, it is the supreme international crime differing only from other war crimes in that it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole."

– International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, 1946

"All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state..."

– U.N. Charter (Chapter I, Article 2)

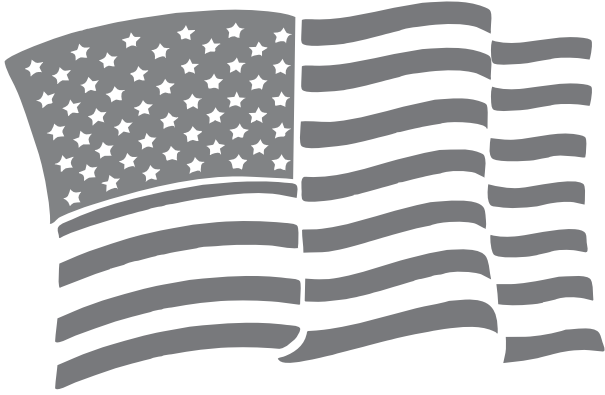
"It is prohibited to attack, destroy, remove, or render useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as ... drinking water installations and supplies."

– Geneva Conventions (Additional Protocol I, Article 54) ¹.

The Bush Administration has violated the US Constitution, Federal and International Law by leading our nation into war in Iraq and in their pursuit of an "endless war on terror." Innocent people have been harmed, our democracy has been injured and our nation is not now safer as a result of their acts.

- In violation of the UN Charter and the Nuremberg Agreement, the Bush Administration lied to Congress, the US public and the world about Iraq's alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction and supposed ties to Al-Qaeda in order to begin a War of Aggression. There was no imminent threat of an Iraqi attack against the US. ^{2, 3, 4.}
- The invasion of Iraq was an unconstitutional act. In October 2002 the Congress unlawfully delegated the power to make war to the President. ^{5.}
- The 1996 War Crimes Act prohibits US officials from inflicting torture, rape and murder on prisoners of war and detainees. But the Bush Administration claims it is legal to use commit all of these crimes, as it has in Guantanamo, Afghanistan and Iraq. ^{6.}
- Under the Geneva Conventions, targeting civilian populations and infrastructure is a war crime. The myth of "surgical precision bombing" is a lie – Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed and maimed in this war. ^{7.}
- Imprisonment of civilians without charges is a violation of the Geneva Conventions. US Coalition authorities estimate that between 75% and 90% of the prisoners held in places such as Abu-Ghraib are civilians "arrested by mistake" – with no links to terrorism. ^{8.} An investigation by US Army Maj. Gen. Donald Ryder found that US detainees in Iraq have been held in violation of the Geneva Conventions. ^{9.}
- The Bush administration claims that the President and his deputies are exempt from all federal laws, the U.S. Constitution and International treaties which prohibit torture. ^{10.}

1. http://www.accuracy.org/press_releases/PR040403.htm – 2. <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/imt/proc/imtconst.htm> – 3. <http://www.bushlied.org/>
4. <http://www.veteransforcommonsense.org/article.asp?id=502> – 5. <http://www.buzzflash.com/interviews/04/04/int04022.html>
6. <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/4989436/site/newsweek/> – 7. <http://www.providence.edu/mba/goodrich/war/surgical/>
8. <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines04/0511-04.htm> – 9. http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2004-06-01-prison-abuse_x.htm
10. http://www.truthout.org/docs_04/060804A.shtml



PROTEST IS PATRIOTIC: SILENCE IS NOT AN OPTION

Some say that to protest our leaders at a time when Americans are dying overseas is unpatriotic. Some say it is our duty to continue to support whatever the government does, no matter what.

It is not our duty to allow our own government to participate in crimes against humanity. America stands for principles of justice and the rule of law. If we allow our own leaders to commit war crimes we have lost the war against terror.

The invasion of Iraq was not legal or smart. It was a mistake, and has harmed our national interest. Every death that occurs as a consequence of this war is needless and criminal.

PARTICIPATION IS PATRIOTIC: DEMOCRACY MEANS ACTION

and shamed America in the eyes of the world. The U.S. government has perpetrated torture in acts documented by testimony and photographs. Shockingly, such conduct apparently was condoned by policy decisions of the Administration.

The U.S. public must hold elected U.S. officials accountable. Senior government officials have violated U.S. and international laws and treaties, trampled on our Constitution,

The Administration and Congress have failed the principles for which America stands. Swift public action is the appropriate response to government officials who condone and wink at torture. **Public action should be focused on members of Congress to force full and expeditious investigations.**

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