

Citizen's Tribunals Find Bush Guilty of War Crimes*

The following are synopses of seven citizen's tribunals held around the world from 2002-2006 that found George W. Bush and members of his presidential administration guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. A fuller report issued by each tribunal is available online. (Numbers one, five, six and seven are the four most thorough tribunals.)

1. The Tokyo International Criminal Tribunal for Afghanistan (ICAT) war crimes indictment and proceedings against U.S. President George W. Bush for crimes in Afghanistan lasted from December, 2002-March 10, 2004 during which time information and testimony were gathered from a variety of sources. The Tokyo citizen's tribunal consisting of five judges (all professors of international law, representing four nationalities from India, the U.K., the U.S. and two from Japan) found Mr. Bush guilty of war crimes in the attack against Afghanistan. Mr. Robert Akroyd, the British lawyer who served on the tribunal, described some of the ways in which the U.S. military violated international law, including conducting an aggressive operation in supposed self-defense and failure to discriminate between civilians and legitimate targets by using indiscriminate weapons" such as depleted uranium ammunition, cluster bombs and huge conventional "Daisy Cutter" bombs, all in violation of several international treaties, agreements and conventions.
2. The Brussels World Tribunal on Iraq held from April 14-17, 2004 which investigated links between the Bush administration's invasion and occupation of Iraq and the Project for the New American Century (PNAC), a neo-conservative organization founded in 1997 which counts many Bush administration officials among its membership and whose avowed purpose is American military, political and economic domination of the world. The Brussels Tribunal established a clear positive link between the ideological outlooks of many Americans and aggressive war.
3. The New York Session of the World Tribunal on Iraq, held May 8, 2004 in New York City's Cooper Union, addressed the failure of the U.S. government to "guarantee a minimal standard of human-rights for the inhabitants" of Iraq as involving multiple violations of international law.
4. The Christchurch, New Zealand war crimes indictment tribunal against George W. Bush, Tony Blair and John Howard for crimes in Iraq started in late July, 2004 and ended with a verdict of "guilty of war crimes in Iraq" on August 7, 2004).
5. The Iraq War Crimes Tribunal held in New York City from August 26-28, 2004 included more than 500 people in New York's Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium and ended with a unanimous verdict which found the Bush government guilty of crimes against peace, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The tribunal drew participants, speakers and testimony from around the world, including eye-witnesses of events in Iraq, expert witnesses, GI resisters, veterans and their families, and political activists and organizers of other tribunals from countries such as Japan, Germany, Turkey, Spain, India and Haiti. All provided factual testimony speaking to the 19 charge indictment prepared by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.
6. The World Tribunal on Iraq (WTI), held hearings in 20 cities (including Barcelona, Brussels, Copenhagen, Genoa, Hiroshima, Istanbul, Lisbon, London, Mumbai, New York, Osterland, Paris, Rome, Seoul, Stockholm, Tunis and various other cities in Germany and Japan) around the world before culminating in its final meetings on June 23-27, 2005 in Istanbul, Turkey. The results and verdict were entitled "Declaration of Jury of Conscience" and found the Bush and Blair governments guilty of numerous criminal acts in Iraq from March 2003 to June 2005. The Istanbul tribunal's declaration was developed by a "Jury of Conscience" composed of people from 10 different countries that heard 54 testimonials from witnesses and advocates, including people

from Iraq, the United Kingdom and the United States. The tribunal endeavored to uncover the truth about the Iraq War, to help deliver some justice to the Iraqi people and to hold accountable those who were responsible for the war. There were numerous charges, recommendations and findings in the tribunals report, but the summarized overview of major findings stated: "The invasion and occupation of Iraq was and is illegal;" "falsehoods" (such as the presence of WMD in Iraq) were "manufactured in order to create public support for a 'preemptive' assault upon a sovereign independent nation;" "Established international political-legal mechanisms failed to prevent the attack and to hold the perpetrators accountable;" and there is much, much more.

7. The International Commission of Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity Committed by the Bush Administration released the findings of its five days of meetings in New York City during October 2005 and January 2006 on February 2, 2006. The commission, consisting of a distinguished panel of five judges with international law backgrounds- also known as the Bush Crimes Commission, found U.S. President George W. Bush's administration guilty of "(authorizing and conducting) a war of aggression against Iraq in violation of international law, including the Nuremberg Principles, Geneva Conventions of 1949, the United Nations Charter, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In doing so, the Bush Administration has committed war crimes and crimes against humanity." Further, the commission asserted that "the Bush administration authorized the use of torture and abuse in violation of international humanitarian and human rights laws and domestic constitutional and statutory law." And, as with the Istanbul Tribunal report, there's much, much more.

And, let's not forget the great state of Vermont, whose state senate voted in early 2007 to support impeaching President Bush and whose activists in two small towns (Brattleboro and Marlboro) succeeded in getting resolutions approved indicting President Bush and Vice President Cheney for "crimes against our Constitution" during the March, 2008 presidential primary.

Finally, For a more detailed discussion of how Bush administration actions constitute violations of both international and U.S. domestic law, please see: **George W. Bush's 'Proxy' War Crimes in Iraq: Violations of the Nuremberg and U.N. Charters and U.S. Constitution** at <http://www.gput.org/proxywarcrimes.shtml> or by clicking on the war crimes button at www.indictbush.info. The article was last updated in June, 2006 and there is plenty of new material to substantiate its main contentions which the author plans to add this year.

**Information provided courtesy of Chuck Tripp, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science at Westminster College, Salt Lake City, Utah..*