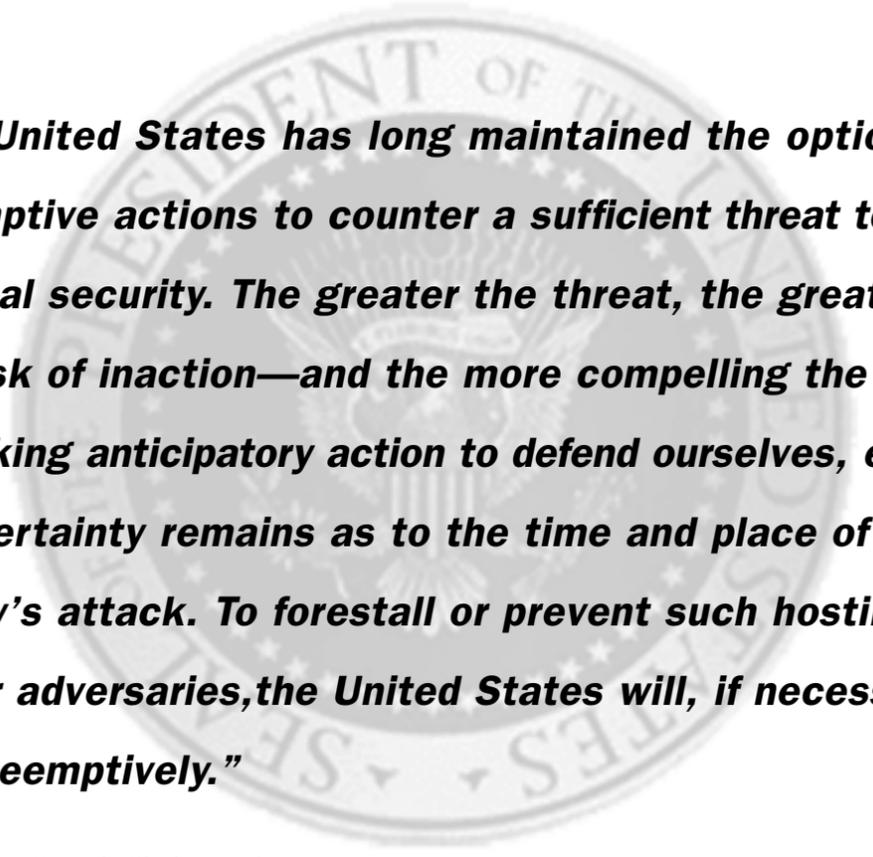


A
PETITION
TO
CONGRESS
FOR
REDRESS
OF
GRIEVANCES



“The United States has long maintained the option of preemptive actions to counter a sufficient threat to our national security. The greater the threat, the greater is the risk of inaction—and the more compelling the case for taking anticipatory action to defend ourselves, even if uncertainty remains as to the time and place of the enemy’s attack. To forestall or prevent such hostile acts by our adversaries, the United States will, if necessary, act preemptively.”

**“The National Security Strategy of the
United States of America”
National Security Council
September 2002**



LIVE

Video still from "Channels of War, Shocking and Awful," Deep Dish TV, 2004.

THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE INVASION OF IRAQ WAS THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN POSSESSED A HIGHLY DANGEROUS BODY OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, SOME OF WHICH COULD BE FIRED IN 45 MINUTES, BRINGING ABOUT APPALLING DEVASTATION. WE WERE ASSURED THAT WAS TRUE. IT WAS NOT TRUE. WE WERE TOLD THAT IRAQ HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH AL QAEDA AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATROCITY IN NEW YORK OF SEPTEMBER 11TH 2001. WE WERE ASSURED THAT THIS WAS TRUE. IT WAS NOT TRUE. WE WERE TOLD THAT IRAQ THREATENED THE SECURITY OF THE WORLD. WE WERE ASSURED IT WAS TRUE. IT WAS NOT TRUE.

THE TRUTH IS SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT. THE TRUTH HAS TO DO WITH HOW THE UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDS ITS ROLE IN THE WORLD AND HOW IT CHOOSES TO EMBODY IT.

Harold Pinter, Nobel Prize in Literature 2005



Maktabat al-Awqaf Library, Baghdad, burned interior, April, 2003. Photo: Nabil al-Tikriti.

Iraqi museum guard contemplates destruction in the Iraq Museum, Baghdad, April, 2003. Photo: Mario Tama/Getty Images.



minority Sunni King Faisal installed. 1922 British High Commissioner creates Kuwait on the border of southern Iraq. 1928 Achnacarry Agreement involving global petroleum giants seeks to

IT WAS THE FINAL CHAPTER IN THE SACK OF BAGHDAD. THE NATIONAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES—A PRICELESS TREASURE OF OTTOMAN HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS INCLUDING THE OLD ROYAL ARCHIVES OF IRAQ—WERE TURNED TO ASHES IN 3,000 DEGREES OF HEAT. THEN THE ISLAMIC LIBRARY OF QUR’ANS AT THE MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENT WAS SET ABLAZE.

FOR IRAQ, [2003 WAS] YEAR ZERO; WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ANTIQUITIES IN THE MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY ON SATURDAY AND THE BURNING OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND THEN THE QUR’ANIC LIBRARY OF THE MINISTRY, THE CULTURAL IDENTITY OF IRAQ [WAS] ERASED.

Robert Fisk
“Islamic Library Burned to the Ground.”
in *The Independent*, London
Baghdad, April 15, 2003

. . . many of the shoppers in this international oil bazaar were interested in a vast region known only as the “Western Desert”—inhabited by nomadic tribesman and virtually unexplored. The Western Desert is what one international oil consultant, his voice mockingly falling to a worshipful murmur, called the “Holy Grail” of the oil industry. Iraqi oil is miraculously cheap to pump out of the ground, costing about a dollar a barrel. Iraqis in general seem to have a touch of pride about their oil. “It comes up to the ground,” one man told me, smiling. “I’ve seen it seeping up.” Another one laughed one day, “You put a pipe in the ground and oil comes out.” The chief wells are to the North, near Kirkuk, where sabotage keeps production down, and to the South, near Basra. But the Western Desert offers untold riches.

Aram Roston
“The Battle for Iraqi Oil”
in *The Nation*
<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20040112/roston>
posted on January 2, 2004

Our best estimate is that 654,965 Iraqis have died as a consequence of the conflict. Of these, 601,027 have died from violence.

**The Human Cost of the War in Iraq
A Mortality Study 2002-2006**

Bloomberg School of Public Health
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland;
School of Medicine
Al Mustansiriya University,
Baghdad, Iraq;
in cooperation with the
Center for International Studies
MIT Cambridge, Massachusetts

There are no accurate estimates of Afghan dead and wounded since the US invasion of 2001.

International Humanitarian Law sets clear standards for the conduct of military operations and limits permissible means and methods of warfare. These standards prohibit the use of weapons that do not distinguish between military targets and civilians, and inflict indiscriminate harm or unnecessary suffering. Yet Coalition forces have used indiscriminate and especially injurious weapons, such as incendiary bombs, napalm, cluster munitions and depleted uranium that have disproportionate effects far beyond their intended military objectives. These weapons are banned by international conventions or widely considered unacceptable and inhumane.

"Report: War and Occupation in Iraq"
Global Policy Forum

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/occupation/report/weapons.htm>
posted January, 2007

In Afghanistan the US dropped about 1,228 cluster bombs containing 248,056 bomblets between October, 2001 and March, 2002. Using a conservative estimate of a 5 percent dud rate, the cluster bombs dropped by the US likely left more than 12,400 explosive duds.

In Iraq the US and the UK dropped nearly 13,000 cluster munitions, containing an estimated 1.8 to 2 million submunitions, in the three weeks of major combat in March and April, 2003. Coalition cluster strikes have left many tens of thousand submunition duds. Hospital records in a handful of cities indicated that by the end of May [2003], submunition duds had already caused hundreds of civilian casualties.

Steve Goose

"Cluster Munitions: Toward a Global Solution"
Human Rights Watch Global Report 2004

In August, 2003 the Pentagon conceded that it had used Mark-77 incendiary bombs. Its denial had relied on a false distinction between napalm and the new white phosphorous firebombs, which have identical effects on victims. US troops used WP against ground targets during initial combat in 2003 and in the battle of Falluja in November 2004.

"[In Falluja] we fired 'shake and bake' missions at the insurgents using white phosphorus to flush them out and high explosives to take them out." [*Field Artillery Magazine*, March/April, 2005]

"Report: War and Occupation in Iraq"
Global Policy Forum

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/occupation/report/weapons.htm>
posted January, 2007

Experts have calculated that Coalition forces used between 1,000 and 2,000 tons of depleted uranium anti-tank shells during the March, 2003 invasion and the immediately subsequent fighting in Iraq. More than 500 tons of DU munitions have been dispensed in Afghanistan.

"The Conduct of the War and Civilian Casualties in Iraq"
Human Rights Watch
December 12, 2003

"The children and people of Iraq have been the greatest victims from exposure to depleted uranium used in the Gulf War and will continue to be. Over time, they cannot escape the chronic, low level exposure to internal radiation from depleted uranium and its decay products as it cycles and recycles through their environment in water, air and food products.

Depleted uranium dust will continue to be an extreme hazard to soldiers, civilians, populations in countries downwind, and the environment as a radiological contaminant to all living systems for ten half-lives or 4.5 billion years."

from "Letter from Leuren Moret to Congressman Jim McDermott"
February 21, 2003

(Leuren Moret. President, Scientists for Indigenous People, City of Berkeley Environmental Commissioner. Berkeley, CA.)

The Pentagon recently issued a contract for initial production of a new high-tech munition system, Spider, which is capable of victim activation. The US is one of just thirteen countries left in the world that either actively produces them or reserves the right to do so (these countries are Burma, China, Cuba, India, Iran, North Korea, South Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, and Vietnam).

According to budget documents released in February, 2006, the Pentagon is requesting \$1.08 billion for the production of new landmine systems between fiscal years 2006 and 2011 as well as \$688 million for research into these systems.

Scott Stedjan and Matt Schaaf

"If it Looks Like a Landmine, Smells like a Landmine..."
<http://www.fpif.org>
posted on August 28, 2006

I cannot sleep. My seething anger keeps my eyes wide open.

But you are sleeping safely in your home, holding your partner or your child and you know in all probability that you will awake tomorrow. And tomorrow, you will open your eyes, step into your bathroom and you will find running water. You will fix yourself a coffee and you will find electricity, you will open your kitchen cupboard and you will find food.

Then you will get dressed, and you have clothes for winter and if you catch the flu, you can always call up your doctor or run to a hospital. Hey, you can even take flowers to your beloved ones if they happen to fall ill, or just check to make sure that the surgery of Uncle Tom was successful. Oh yes, you can afford to do so.

Then you will get into your car, drive merrily or maybe not so merrily to your work place, or go shopping worrying about what to cook for your sweet family, or meet with your friends for a morning cup and rant neurotically about how miserable your life is.

Your day is probably filled with things to do. Most likely you have a job and you know you have an income at the end of the month. And you can give yourself the luxury of planning for your future. ...

You feel queasy at the sight of blood. Yes I know that. Even the blood you watch on your TV screen when you get back home safely in the evenings is censored so as not to disturb your sensitivities. You don't see limbs, bowels, and brains blown away, you are really cared for and so protected. And if per chance you come across such scenes, you conveniently zap or ask your kids to run upstairs. You don't want them traumatized. Yes violence is bad for you. It disturbs your peace of mind. I really sympathize.

An Arab Woman Blues — Reflections in a sealed bottle...
Layla Anwar
<http://arabwomanblues.blogspot.com/>
Tuesday, November 28, 2006



9-year-old Ibtihal Jasseem is rescued by her uncle Jaber Jouda, in Basra, Iraq, March 22, 2003. Photo: Nabil El Jourana/AP.

In Iraq
US Deaths 3323
US Non Mortal Casualties:
total wounded 24,314
total medical air transported 33,455
total – non-mortal casualties 50,502
(including non-hostile and
medical evacuations)

In Afghanistan
US Deaths 315
(198 killed by hostile action)

DOD confirmations as of April 23, 2007

More than 770 civilian contractors have died in Iraq (including deaths by natural causes) between March 2003 and Dec. 31, 2006

U.S. Labor Department, Division of Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation

One in three homeless Americans are military vets, and that is rising. One in four vets with PTSD sought medical care from the VA, where they experienced a two to three month wait to see a doctor. Over 53,000 are wounded. The ratio of doctors to patients is one doctor for every 500 patients. Veteran males aged 20 to 24 have twice the unemployment rate. 40% of troops currently being rotated are National Guard or reservists. 95% of them are experiencing problems getting their pay. Many are being sent back are on potent anti-depressants, anti-anxiety drugs with little or no counseling or supervision or screening. Over 200 have committed suicide. There's a 70% divorce rate for returning soldiers. The GOP plan for 2007 drops \$65 billion in benefits over the next five years.

There was not a mention of this crisis in the State of the Union address, as if the war only exists over there and not here. And there was not an ounce of criticism from any of our presidential hopefuls. I say to those who tell me that we are fighting this war over there so that it doesn't come here: listen to the sons and daughters who are returning and their families, and you will know that the war is being fought here in the hearts and minds and bodies of those that are returning and have already sacrificed so much.

Susan Sarandon, Washington DC, January 27, 2007



April 7, 2004, Kuwait International Airport. Photo: Tami Silicio.
Photo released by Pentagon, April, 2005 source: http://www.thememoryhole.org/war/coffin_photos/dover/.



blocking much of Persian Gulf oil flow to Europe and leaving international oil corporations with fears about the precedent for possible seizures of pipelines in the Middle East. 1958 Military coup



executes King Faisal II in Iraq. Ahd al-Assem Qasim, advocate of Arab nationalism, heads new government. 1959 Qasim is wounded by would-be assassins with links to the CIA; Saddam Hussein, a conspirator



'we will not be silent' banner action. Atrium Hart Senate Office Building. Jan. 3, 2007, Wash, DC. Photo: Anonymous.

ator, flees. 1960 Formation of OPEC in quest of a voice in the pricing and marketing of their oil. 1963 Qasim is overthrown by military & Baath party. Saddam Hussein participates in torture & murder of



Photo of detainees being transported from Afghanistan to Guantánamo Bay. Anonymously sent to news organizations, November 2002. Detainees at Guantánamo Bay. Photo: Shane T. McCoy/AP, U.S. Navy, obtained on cryptome.org.



“WE CONCLUDE THAT FOR AN ACT TO CONSTITUTE TORTURE ... IT MUST INFLICT PAIN THAT IS DIFFICULT TO ENDURE. PHYSICAL PAIN AMOUNTING TO TORTURE MUST BE EQUIVALENT TO INTENSITY TO THE PAIN ACCOMPANYING SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY, SUCH AS ORGAN FAILURE, IMPAIRMENT OF BODILY FUNCTION, OR EVEN DEATH. FOR PURELY MENTAL PAIN OR SUFFERING TO AMOUNT TO TORTURE ... IT MUST RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT PSYCHOLOGICAL HARM OF SIGNIFICANT DURATION, e.g., LASTING FOR MONTHS OR EVEN YEARS.”

Jay C. Bybee

“Memorandum for Alberto R. Gonzales, Counsel to the President

Re: Standards of Conduct for Interrogation under 18 U.S.C. §§ 2340-2340A”

THE MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT 2006 STRIPS DETAINEES OF THEIR HABEAS CORPUS RIGHTS, SANCTIONS ENDLESS DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL, AND ALLOWS THE USE OF TORTURE [INDUCED] TESTIMONY BEFORE GUANTÁNAMO’S MILITARY COMMISSIONS. MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, THIS LAW ALLOWS FUTURE CIA INTERROGATORS AMPLE LATITUDE FOR USE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE. ...

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE 200 YEARS SINCE 1791 WHEN THE UNITED STATES RATIFIED THE FIFTH AMENDMENT BANNING SELF-INCRIMINATION, CONGRESS HAS PASSED A LAW ALLOWING COERCED TESTIMONY INTO US COURTS.

Alfred C. McCoy

“The US Has a Long History of Using Torture”

Center for History and New Media

December 4, 2006

THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO FLOUT INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC LAW WHEN IT ‘RENDERS’ SUSPECTS TO COUNTRIES WHERE THEY ARE TORTURED AND SOMETIMES ‘DISAPPEARED. ...’

Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at

New York University School of Law

<http://www.nyuhr.org/>

posted on February, 2005

In The United States’ arbitrary and haphazard arrest and detention policies were directed almost entirely against Muslim men of South Asian or Middle Eastern descent. [It is impossible to quantify the numbers of persons of Middle Eastern descent who have been detained and or deported since 9/11, the estimates range from thousands to hundreds of thousands.] ...

The [US] incarcerated [detainees] in degrading and inhumane conditions. Although the immigrants generally were detained on non-criminal immigration charges, many were kept in cells for 23 hours a day and were made to wear hand and leg shackles when leaving their cells. Some were kept in solitary confinement for extended periods with no explanation. Lights were left on 24 hours a day, immigrants were denied the use of blankets, and many were denied telephone calls and visits with family members.

“Worlds Apart: How Deporting Immigrants After 9/11 Tore Families Apart and Shattered Communities”

ACLU

December, 2004

For more than three years, José Padilla, a US citizen detained as an “enemy combatant”, has been kept in a blacked-out cell, unable to see or hear anything beyond it. Most importantly, he had had no human contact, except for being bounced off the walls from time to time by his interrogators. As a result, he appears to have lost his mind.

The forensic psychiatrist who examined him says that he “does not appreciate the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him, is unable to render assistance to counsel, and has impairments in reasoning as the result of a mental illness, i.e., post-traumatic stress disorder, complicated by the neuropsychiatric effects of prolonged isolation.” José Padilla appears to have been lobotomized: not medically, but socially.

George Monbiot

“Routine and systematic torture is at the heart of America’s war on terror.”
in *The Guardian*

December 12, 2006

In spring, 2003, as the smoke began to clear from the US invasion of Iraq, a wave of kidnappings, abductions, public beatings, death threats, sexual assaults, and killings gripped the country. The targets were women. US authorities took no action and soon the violence spread. Killings of Iraqi men and foreigners became commonplace as Islamist militias launched a campaign of terror that mushroomed into the civil war now raging across Iraq. While the militias were taking to the streets, their political leaders were taking their seats in a new Iraqi government. With money, weapons, training, and political backing from the United States, Iraqi Islamists have put an end to 85 years of secular rule in Iraq and established an Islamist theocracy. As Yanar Mohammed, director of the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI, a partner organization of MADRE) said, "We used to have a government that was almost secular. It had one dictator. Now we have almost 60 dictators—Islamists who think of women as forces of evil. This is what is called the democratization of Iraq."

Yifat Suskind
**"Promising Democracy, Imposing Theocracy:
 Gender-Based Violence and the US War on Iraq"**
MADRE
February, 2007

Before the US-led invasion in 2003, Iraq's health-care system was already crippled by the eight-year war with Iran, the first Gulf War in 1991, and more than 12 years of UN sanctions from 1991-2003. The unrelenting violence since the invasion has now brought Iraq's health-care system to the brink of collapse. Many of those who die from their injuries due to terrorist and sectarian violence could have been saved if Iraq's hospitals were functioning properly.

The nonprofit group Medact estimated in a report released in March that 120 doctors and 80 pharmacists have been killed and more than 18,000 physicians have fled Iraq since 2003.

Sumedha Senanayake
"Iraq: Health-Care System On Verge Of Collapse"
Radio Free Europe
<http://www.rferl.org>
Friday, October 27, 2006

The violence comes as the International Committee of the Red Cross is warning the suffering of Iraqi civilians is getting worse. In a new report, the Red Cross says hospitals are overstretched, malnutrition is rising and power outages are intensifying. Red Cross director of operations Pierre Kraehenbuehl said: "The suffering that Iraqi men, women and children are enduring today is unbearable and unacceptable."

"Red Cross: Iraqi Civilian Suffering Worsens"
<http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/iraq?OpenDocument>
accessed on April 11, 2007

The UN estimates 3.7 million Iraqis are displaced. Out of a total population of 26 million that is one out of every 14.

300,000 have been displaced just since November. About 2,000 a day arrive in Syria alone.

The UNHCR (The UN Refugee Agency) budget for its Iraq programme is now \$29m, far below the \$150m allocated at the start of the invasion in 2003. Within that budget, the UNHCR can spend just \$1 on each of the 800,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria alone.

The official quota for the number of Iraqi refugees to be allowed into the U.S. this year stands at just 500. ...

UNHCR latest Iraq advisory, January 9, 2007. <http://www.unhcr.org>



Sulaymaniyah, Iraq. Displaced persons camp. Photo: ICRC.

“Nearly three years after this war, the buildings are still piles of debris. Electricity is terrible. Water is cut off for days at a time. Telephone lines come and go. Oil production isn’t even at pre-war levels... and Iraqis hear about the billions upon billions that come and go. A billion here for security... Five hundred million there for the infrastructure... Millions for voting... Iraq falling into deeper debt... Engineers without jobs simply because they are not a part of this political party or that religious group... And the country still in shambles.

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

What does America possibly gain by damaging Iraq to this extent? I’m certain only raving idiots still believe this war and occupation were about WMD or an actual fear of Saddam.

Al Qaeda? That’s laughable. Bush has effectively created more terrorists in Iraq these last 4 years than Osama could have created in 10 different terrorist camps in the distant hills of Afghanistan. Our children now play games of ‘sniper’ and ‘jihadi’, pretending that one hit an American soldier between the eyes and this one overturned a Humvee.

This last year especially has been a turning point. Nearly every Iraqi has lost so much. So much. There’s no way to describe the loss we’ve experienced with this war and occupation. There are no words to relay the feelings that come with the knowledge that daily almost 40 corpses are found in different states of decay and mutilation. There is no compensation for the dense, black cloud of fear that hangs over the head of every Iraqi. Fear of things so out of ones hands, it borders on the ridiculous — like whether your name is ‘too Sunni’ or ‘too Shia’. Fear of the larger things — like the Americans in the tank, the police patrolling your area in black bandanas and green banners, and the Iraqi soldiers wearing black masks at the check-point.

...

Is the American soldier that died today in Anbar more important than a cousin I have who was shot last month on the night of his engagement to a woman he’s wanted to marry for the last six years? I don’t think so.

Friday, December 29, 2006

Baghdad Burning

... I’ll meet you ‘round the bend my friend, where hearts can heal and souls can mend...

http://riverbendblog.blogspot.com/2006_12_01_riverbendblog_archive.html

End of Another Year ...”



Falluja. 2004. Photographer unidentified.



A street in Fallujah. November 2004. Photo: Kevin Sites.



<http://www.icrc.org> Photo: Ali Jasim/Reuters.



<http://www.icrc.org> Photo: Samir Mizban/AP

The War in Iraq has cost \$419,497,665,803 (calculation on Monday, April 23, 2007 at 12:00am)

*The National Priorities Project
The Calculator*

For the \$200 billion cost (so far) of the administration's project that is attempting to impose "democracy" on Iraq it would be possible to give the 500,000 residents of New Orleans \$400,000 each.

...

A year after the storm, the reconstruction of New Orleans echoes our reconstruction of Baghdad. A "truth squad" of House Democrats has cataloged the waste, fraud, abuse or mismanagement in \$8.75 billion worth of contracts, most of which were awarded noncompetitively. Only 60 percent of the city has electricity. Half of the hospitals and three-quarters of the child-care centers remain closed. Violent crime is on the rise. Less than half of the population has returned.

More than 25 million people, or about 9 percent of all Americans, receive food assistance on an emergency basis. This growing army of poor and hungry includes nearly 9 million children and 3 million seniors.

Hunger in America 2006
<http://www.hungerinamerica.org/>

Frank Rich
"Return to the Scene of the Crime"
Op-Ed, in *The New York Times*
August 27, 2006



Then: Glenda Thomas of Gulfport, Mississippi, at her destroyed home. Today she lives in an aunt's trailer. "Everything is gone," she says.

Still no help for Katrina's victims

One year later, the memory is just as shocking: On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina savaged the Gulf Coast, killing more than 1,800 and stranding thousands. "You saw these poor women on TV trapped in unspeakable circumstances. It could have been Haiti, but it was America,"

"glamour news editorial", *Glamour Magazine*, August 2006. Photo: Ross Taylor/Getty Images.

Since September 11, 2001, the pay gap between defense CEOs and low-ranking enlisted personnel—army private first class, for instance—has jumped from 190-to-1 to 308-to-1.

“Defense CEO Pay and Battlefield Pay: A Comparison”
United for a Fair Economy
www.faireconomy.org/reports/2006/ExecutiveExcess2006.pdf
August, 2006

According to the most recent Government Accountability Office report, some 48,000 private soldiers, working for 181 private military firms, are deployed in Iraq alone. The Bush Administration has paid Blackwater alone more than \$320 million since June 2004 to provide “diplomatic security” services globally.

Jeremy Scahill
“Mercenary Jackpot”
<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20060828/scahill>
posted on August 28, 2006

...the US government is outsourcing key security and military support functions, to private companies. Allegations of contractor involvement in serious human rights violations — including participation by contractors in the torture at Abu Ghraib — have emerged, yet Bush administration officials had made virtually no effort to hold contractors accountable or compensate victims.

**“Corporate Accountability in the ‘War on Terror’:
Private Military and Security Companies”**
Amnesty International
<http://www.amnestyusa.org/business/pmc/index.html>
accessed on January 28, 2007

New Orleans — Heavily armed paramilitary mercenaries from the Blackwater private security firm, infamous for their work in Iraq, are openly patrolling the streets of New Orleans. They say they are on contract with the Department of Homeland Security and have been given the authority to use lethal force.

Jeremy Scahill and Daniela Crespo
“Blackwater Mercenaries Deploy in New Orleans.”
on *Democracy Now*
September 10, 2005

Meanwhile in Afghanistan . . .

Four years after US forces ousted the Taliban from Kabul, Afghanistan faces an increasingly violent insurgency in southern and southeastern areas, while in the rest of the country regional military commanders—warlords—further entrench themselves by subverting the political process and controlling the country’s drug trade. . . .

Women and girls continue to suffer from discrimination and restrictions. Only 35 percent of school-age girls are in school.

Human Rights Watch
January, 2006

An unprecedented 6,100 tons of opium has been harvested, making Afghanistan virtually the sole supplier to the world; a 59% increase over 2005. Revenue from the harvest will be over three billion dollars this year, making a handful of criminals and corrupt officials extremely rich. This money is also dragging the rest of Afghanistan into a bottomless pit of destruction and despair.

448,000 families or 12.6% of Afghanistan’s 23 million total population were involved in opium poppy cultivation in 2006. This is the highest production level ever recorded in Afghanistan. As a consequence, global opium production has also reached its highest point since 1990, at 6,629 metric tons.

**“Afghanistan
2006 Annual Opium Poppy Survey”**
Summary of findings
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
September, 2006

What's so extraordinary about what has happened in Iraq is that you really have all of these layers of colonialism and neocolonialism, this quest for privatization, forming a kind of a perfect storm in that country. On the one hand, you have old-school colonial pillage, which is, let's go for the oil. And as many of you know, Iraq has a new oil law. It's passed through cabinet, hasn't yet passed through parliament. It legalizes pillage. It legalizes the extraction of 100% of the profits from Iraq's oil industry, which are precisely the conditions that created the wave of Arab nationalism and the reclaiming of the resources in the 1950s through the '70s. So it's an undoing of that process and a straight-up resource grab: old-school colonialism.

Layered on top of that, you have colonialism 2.1, which is the looting of the Iraqi state, what was built up under the banner of Arab nationalism—the industry, the factories. The kind of rapid-fire, shock therapy-style strip-mining privatization that we saw in the former Soviet Union in the '90s, that was the idea, that was Plan A for Iraq, that the US would just go in there with Blackwater guarding Paul Bremer and would sell off all of Iraq's industries. So you had the old-school colonial, then you had the new school.

And then you had the post-modern privatization, which was the idea that the US military was actually going to war, the US Army was going to war, to loot itself, which is a post-modern kind of innovation. If we remember, Thomas Friedman told us less than a decade ago that no two countries with a McDonald's have ever gone to war. Now, we go to war with McDonald's, Taco Bell, Burger King, in tow. And so, the process of waging war is a form of self-pillage. Not only is Iraq being pillaged, but the United States coffers of this government are being pillaged. So we have these three elements, all converging this perfect storm over [Iraq].

Naomi Klein
interview on *Democracy Now*
<http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=07/04/02/1345218>
April 2, 2007

The current situation is very like that of 1964, the year preceding our overt, open-ended escalation of the Vietnam War, and 2002, the year leading up to the US invasion of Iraq.

In both cases, if one or more conscientious insiders had closed the information gap with unauthorized disclosures to the public, a disastrous war might have been averted entirely.

Daniel Ellsberg
"The Next War"
in *Harper's Magazine*
October, 2006

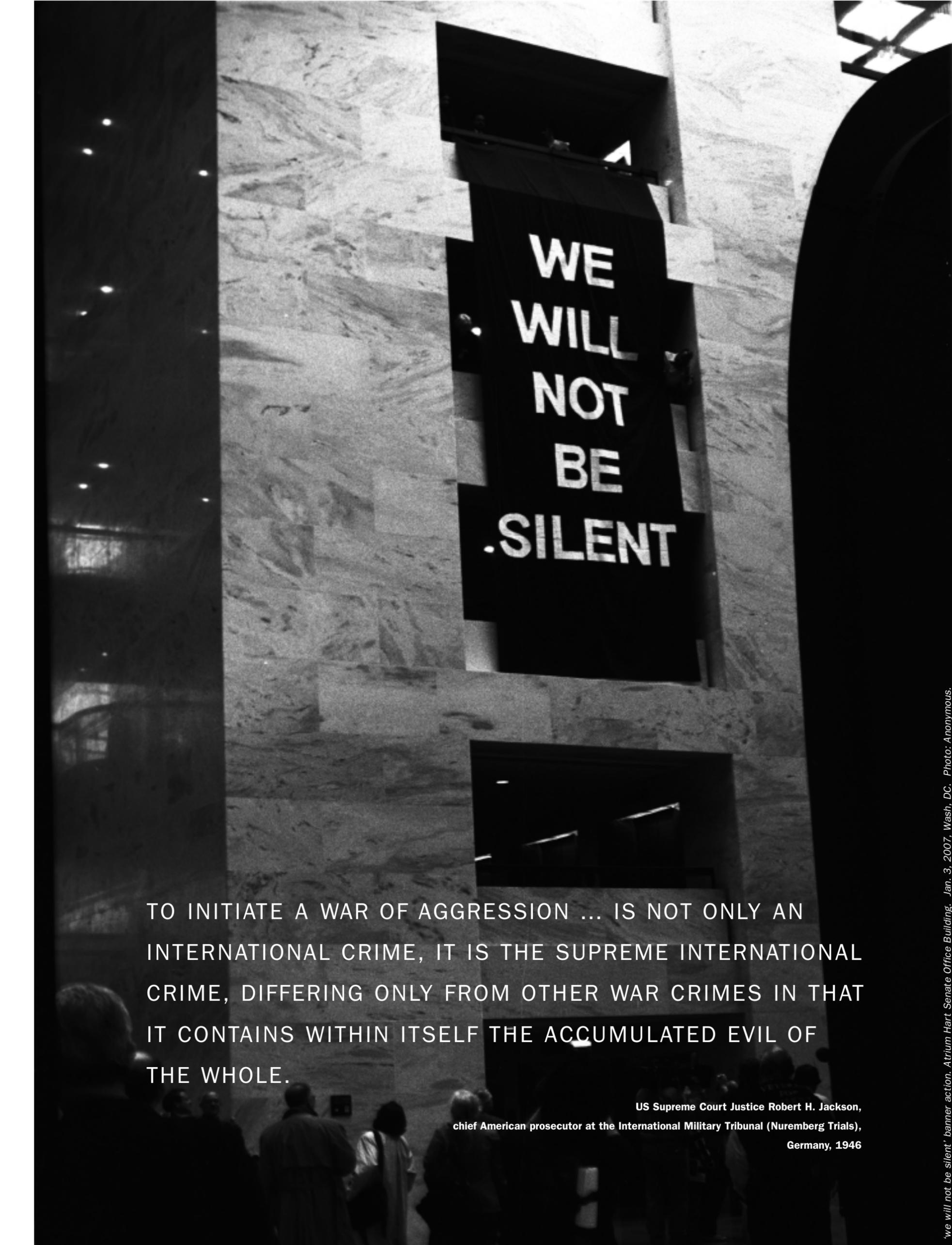
We now have Iran. It's alleged to have a nuclear weapons program. And yet the International Atomic Energy Agency, the inspectors who have had full access to the sites in Iran, have come out and said, "Well, we can't say that there isn't a secret program that we don't know about. What we can say, as a direct result of our investigations, there is no data what so ever to sustain the Bush administration's claims that there is a nuclear weapons program." And yet, the Bush administration once again is putting the onus on Iran, saying, "It's not up to the inspectors to find the nuclear weapons program. It's up to the Iranians to prove that one doesn't exist." Why do we go down this path? Because you can't prove a negative. There's nothing Iran can

do that will satisfy the Bush administration, because the policy at the end of the day is not about nonproliferation, it's not about disarmament. It's about regime change. And all the Bush administration wants to do is to create the conditions that support their ultimate objective of military intervention.

Interview with Scott Ritter on *Democracy Now*
Ritter served from 1991 to 1998 as a United Nations weapons inspector in Iraq in the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM)
October 16, 2006

We have a system of checks and balances in this country. And this system provides for relief when the president so defies the will of the American people. Congress cannot abdicate its responsibility and cannot dodge and weave its responsibility by passing non-binding resolutions. There is nothing non-binding about what this president has put the soldiers and the people in Iraq through. We will not be satisfied until there is binding action by this congress to turn this situation, this disaster, around and bring our troops home.

Former Congressman Tom Andrews, Maine
public statement to the media
January, 2007



WE
WILL
NOT
BE
SILENT

TO INITIATE A WAR OF AGGRESSION ... 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.

US Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson,
chief American prosecutor at the International Military Tribunal (Nuremberg Trials),
Germany, 1946

'we will not be silent' banner action. Atrium Hart Senate Office Building. Jan. 3, 2007, Wash, DC. Photo: Anonymous.

PURSUANT to the first amendment's promise of the right for redress of grievances we submit this document as evidence of such a claim.

ARTICLE II, SECTION 4

**THE PRESIDENT,
VICE PRESIDENT AND
ALL CIVIL OFFICERS OF
THE UNITED STATES,
SHALL BE REMOVED
FROM OFFICE ON
IMPEACHMENT FOR,
AND CONVICTION OF,
TREASON, BRIBERY, OR
OTHER HIGH CRIMES
AND MISDEMEANORS.**

**Constitutional Provisions on Impeachment,
*The US Constitution***

**YOUR SILENCE
YOUR LEGACY**

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design and layout: Ann Messner edited by Ann Messner & Carole Ashley