

## International Tribunal on Crimes Committed by US-UK Against Iraq

### *Mission statement*

We are working on organizing an independent international tribunal investigating and documenting the very grave crimes the US and its allies have committed in Iraq in launching the attack, during the invasion and the current occupation. The embargo itself would need to be taken up for discussion - in terms of its devastating results. The tribunal would also consider the "full spectrum dominance", "pre-emptive war", etc. doctrines and various foreign and "defence" policy papers and discuss whether they, in themselves, constitute violations of international treaties and international humanitarian norms and values and discuss the role of the "Project for New American Century (PNAC)" in the process. The tribunal would, after examining reports and evidence, listening to witnesses (Iraqi and internationals), hearing interventions by victims, would reach a decision.

**The goal is to organize a genuinely respectable and credible tribunal that shall have worldwide impact.**

This requires that:

1. The tribunal consist of internationally accepted and respected people of merit in their various fields.
2. The tribunal should include people from as many different sectors/professions/groups as possible and from different continents - with representative capacity. In other words, this war of aggression having been a crime against peace and humanity as well as against the people of Iraq, the composition of the tribunal should in some way be acceptable as a representation of the conscience of the world as a whole.
3. The tribunal should not remain an academic endeavour but should be **backed by a strong international campaign**. Anti-war and peace movements, which carried out the

big mass movements against the attack on Iraq have in principle adopted the idea of indicting the aggressors and turning this into a campaign. They are now being approached to confirm their participation. We have already taken the idea to the international anti-war coalition meetings in Berlin, Jakarta and Geneva. They are enthusiastic to participate in the effort and to coordinate with the tribunal.

To increase its worldwide impact and to turn it into a steadily rising campaign culminating in the final session - which will take place in Istanbul, Turkey - we developed the following idea which was accepted in Brussels:

**It seems possible to group the basic areas of investigation under 4-5 titles.**

- The tribunal would need to hold preparatory sessions / hearings to develop the investigation, to prepare preliminary reports and to map out what else needs to be done before the final session.
- There will be separate investigation commissions for each of the 4-5 main titles. These groups would each hold a preparatory / preliminary session in a different country - preferably in different continents. To these sessions only those people involved in that special area - investigators, some witnesses, report writers etc. and of course a representative from the tribunal to preside the session - would go.
- All these commissions of inquiry or investigation will be working in conformity with an overall set of rules and norms that will apply to the whole tribunal and in close contact with the coordinating group and the tribunal board.

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### Where will the preliminary hearings be held?

This would depend on movements coming up and saying we are willing to host this and to arrange its logistics.

The reports of these preliminary hearings by commissions of investigation will be presented in the final tribunal. All the documentation will be available to the jury and the tribunal board. The jury will evaluate all these and new evidence, listen to the "defense" and hear some witnesses at the final tribunal and report on the conclusions it reaches. And the tribunal board will evaluate all these and reach a decision. This will not be a sentence but a decision on whether the various accusations are valid and whether such crimes have actually been committed.

### In Brussels the group in Turkey was asked to go ahead with coordinating the operational aspects of this project and to act as the clearing house of the information flow.

We will do this and in late September - early October we will hold an international working meeting with organizations and persons who commit themselves to take part in this effort and finalize all the plans. We expect the coordinating group to expand to include people from other regions of the world at this meeting.

After this meeting we will all make an international declaration - announcing that there will be a tribunal, the schedule, etc. We will start sending out official invitations to people we wish to take part in the tribunal board, the jury, commissions of investigation, etc.

Already two groups, one from Brussels (the ideological background: PNAC, "full spectrum dominance", "pre-emptive war", imperial hegemony, etc.) and the other from Japan/Hiroshima (war crimes, the nuclear aspects of the American strategy, the genocidal use of sanctions) have volunteered to hold two of the preliminary hearings. We are working to have the first preliminary hearing in New York - it will be a very good starting point.

With the broad support this initiative is developing, it seems likely that there will be

other offers for hosting from Asia, Latin America and Europe.

Movements in the countries of the region will contribute towards the organization of the campaign and the event and its publication. **The best arrangement would be if as in the case of Brussels and Hiroshima, the groups volunteering to hold preliminary sessions also undertake the task of organizing the commission of investigation focusing on a particular aspect of the crimes in question.**

Of course we will do the coordination and give all the help we can to make sure that the commission is made up of the best possible participants and is fully competent and is equipped to carry out the task. But it could also be possible to think of hosting a hearing and arranging for a commission of investigation separately and then make rational matches.

### Organizations are invited to participate in this effort.

They could participate at various levels. They could:

1. Undertake to organize a preliminary session and the commission of investigation.
2. Offer to host a preliminary session.
3. Undertake to set up a commission of investigation.
4. Offer to contribute contacts, names of people who would qualify to take part in the various components of the tribunal and establish the initial contacts with those people.
5. Offer to contribute names & contacts of persons and organizations of expertise who are already researching into the various aspects of the crimes and violations in question.
6. They could also undertake to follow up with the preparation of certain reports and make them available for the use of the tribunal. We need reports. There are many institutions and people all around the world who are exploring many aspects of what has been done and what is

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going on in Iraq. We need to build on these and make them usable in the tribunal. All this separate efforts and work then would combine to produce an immense impact.

7. There will be a web page soon. We will need to have the web page in as many languages as possible. And constant flow of information. The Japanese group already has a website in Japanese language <http://justice.no-war.jp> and will soon have an English and Arabic version of it. All websites will be linked.
8. Offer to undertake to organize the local campaigns around the tribunal.
9. Offer to contribute financially towards meeting the expenses involved in realizing this tribunal. Until the international declaration is made, our more concrete work will go on at the local level and we will be raising funds locally. After the declaration, we will have an international bank account. We have asked the Russell Foundation to monitor it. Either they or someone they will advise will be doing this.

We have an office at the below address. Our contact information is:

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### **We are asking for :**

- a) confirmation of endorsement of the project
- b) indication of which, if any, of these or other contributions the organization undertakes to make
- c) close contact and coordination & information flow concerning developments.

The draft on main headlines of issues to be addressed in the tribunal is attached. It is A DRAFT. And needs to be developed. We are going to have a meeting with a group of experts in international law and human rights law in ten days and will develop it with them. Then we will be consulting others at the international level.