OMNI NEWSLETTER, 2010 UN INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE DAY, TO END IMPUNITY FOR TERRIBLE CRIMES. Compiled by Dick Bennett
July 17, 2010, FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE and WE, THE PEOPLE

2010 UN INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE DAY

Dear J.,

July 17 is International Justice Day. It celebrates the International Criminal Court (ICC) and all efforts to end impunity for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. It is also time to celebrate our achievements.

Last year on July 17 and since then we asked you to write to President Obama urging his administration to participate in ICC meetings, including the recent Review Conference in Kampala, Uganda. You sent over 4,800 advocacy messages on the ICC to the administration and Congress. They heard you. After eight years of absence, the U.S. is now an active participant in the Court.

Successful U.S. engagement with the ICC is a major achievement, but it is not enough. The Obama administration has made a good start in renewing the U.S. commitment to the ICC. It has pledged its cooperation with the Court. But the U.S. needs a comprehensive ICC policy which administration officials now say is "too hard" to reach. This will leave the U.S. without a foundation for its work with the Court and unprepared to deal with unforeseen situations and emergencies. The Obama administration early on committed to completing an interagency policy toward the ICC.

Tell President Obama that this International Justice Day is the time to finish what he started: complete an integrated U.S. policy toward the ICC.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Saturday, July 10, 2010
Korean War Panel Finds U.S. Attacks on Civilians
SEOUL, South Korea — A commission charged with investigating wartime atrocities has found that American troops killed groups of South Korean civilians on 138 separate occasions during the Korean War.

But in a flurry of rulings made in the past few days, the commission decided not to seek compensation or criminal charges in about 130 of the cases either for lack of evidence or because it found that the killings were militarily justified.

Posted by Kim Carlyle

Thursday, July 8, 2010
Drivers, Cooks – Beware
You could be guilty of war crimes if you drive or cook for the wrong people
Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmoud al Qosi, imprisoned for nine-and-a-half years, pleaded guilty to war crimes--conspiracy and providing material support to terrorism-- at Gitmo on Wednesday. His crimes? Driving (part-time) and cooking (occasionally) for al Qaeda.
The terms of his plea agreement were not revealed; the defense declined to comment. The abuse he endured was not mentioned in court. The convicted war criminal promised to never sue the U.S. government or challenge his detention.
No cooks or drivers were convicted (or even tried) at Nuremberg.
George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, et al. remain at large.

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

Losing in Afghanistan by Marjorie Cohn (originally posted at HuffingtonPost)

Last week, the House of Representatives voted 215-210 for $33 billion to fund Barack Obama's troop increase in Afghanistan. But there was considerable opposition to giving the President a blank check. One hundred sixty-two House members supported an amendment that would have tied the funding to a withdrawal timetable. One hundred members voted for another amendment that would have rejected the $33 billion for the 30,000 new troops already on their way to Afghanistan; that amendment would have required that the money be spent to redeploy our troops out of Afghanistan. Democrats voting for the second amendment included House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and nine Republicans. Both amendments failed to pass.

The new appropriation is in addition to the $130 billion Congress has already approved for Iraq and Afghanistan this year. And the 2010 Pentagon budget is $693 billion, more than all other discretionary spending programs combined.

Our economic crisis is directly tied to the cost of the war. We are in desperate need of money for education and health care. The $1 million per year it costs to maintain a single soldier in Afghanistan could pay for 20 green jobs.

Not only is the war bankrupting us, it has come at a tragic cost in lives. June was the deadliest month for U.S. troops in Afghanistan. In addition to the 1,149 American soldiers killed in Afghanistan, untold numbers of Afghan civilians have died from the war - untold because the Defense Department refuses to maintain statistics of anyone except U.S. personnel. After all, Donald Rumsfeld quipped in 2005, "death has a tendency to encourage a depressing view of war." READ MORE

Tuesday, July 6, 2010

Homespun Domestic Terrorism

When I left Vietnam as an Army medic in September 1971, American soldiers in my unit were shooting heroin, they were shooting each other, and they were shooting themselves.
The multiple tour wars in the Middle East have marched America into an economic gas chamber. The oil America so desperately needed for our dinosaur economy, is now hemorrhaging into the cells of America's love of denial. The swarming locust have become homing pigeons.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71

July 5, 2010  Photograph by Mike Hastie  Posted by Kim Carlyle 0 comments

Detroit, June 26--At 2pm, a group of U.S. military veterans hung a large banner on the abandoned Eddystone Hotel, on Sproat St., between Cass and Park, to protest and reveal the effect of war spending on American cities. Members of Veterans For Peace (VFP), attending the U.S. Social Forum, a gathering of over 8,000 activists from across the U.S., created and erected the 10 x 15-foot sign. Detroit has an unemployment rate of 15 percent and 10,000 abandoned homes on the mayor’s demolition list.

Taxpayers in Detroit have sent a total of nearly two billion dollars to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The city’s 2011 general fund budget of 1.3 billion dollars contains an estimated deficit of 300 million dollars, even after years of cutbacks in services once assumed to be part of urban life. The budget for Detroit schools has a deficit in the same range.

“Detroit, like so many of our cities, is in crisis,” said Mike Ferner, National President of VFP. "This crisis is no different than a five-alarm fire and we should respond the same way. Instead, we watch America’s cities literally crumble while we pour thousands of lives and trillions of dollars into wars abroad.”

John Amidon, President of VFP Chapter 10, added, “It’s absolutely criminal that the people who built the U.S. auto industry have to watch their city collapse around them while they send $2,000,000,000 to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. This is indeed the purest form of madness and it’s coming to a city near you.”

VFP, with over 100 chapters, is beginning a campaign to work with local government officials to place “war counters” on city halls stating the amount of money each community has sent to the wars. Veterans For Peace members fought in World War II, the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan wars and have served in all eras in between conflicts. VFP is an official Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) represented at the UN.

Thursday, June 24, 2010  Posted by Kim Carlyle 0 comments
Israeli leaders sued in Belgium for war crimes
June 23, 2010, PARIS (JTA)—A complaint was filed in Belgian court against 14 Israeli leaders for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Israeli opposition leader Tzipi Livni and Defense Minister Ehud Barak were among those charged with war crimes committed during the Gaza war in the winter of 2008-09, the French daily Le Monde reported. Former Gen. Matan Vilnai and other Israeli army leaders, politicians and intelligence officials also were included on the list.

Two lawyers representing 13 family members of victims of an Israeli army bombing of a mosque near the Jabaliya refugee camp during the war said they filed their complaints Wednesday in Brussels, according to reports.

A Belgian doctor with Palestinian roots also is among the complainants. He claims that Israeli forces destroyed his family's olive fields.

Much of the 70-page complaint is based on the Goldstone report, according to the French news agency AFP. The report by a U.N. commission led by former South African justice Richard Goldstone accused Israel and Hamas of war crimes and possibly crimes against humanity.

Edited by Kim Carlyle
0 comments

Older Posts Home
Subscribe to: Posts (Atom)

Guidelines for submissions to WCT

The ideal article for the quarterly print version of The War Crimes Times is 600-800 words in length, crisply written, and of course relevant to our mission.

We also welcome photos, cartoons, poetry, and letters to the editor.

While original work is preferred, we'll accept the work of others with their permission.

Submissions for the Spring 2010 issue are due on March 15 – Send to editor@WarCrimesTimes.org
(Note: due to size constraints, all submissions may not be used in the print edition, but all will be considered for posting on this blog.)

Our mission:
The War Crimes Times provides information on war crimes, war criminals, and on the necessity and means to prosecute war criminals to the general public, to law-makers, and to our justice-seeking allies. When national leaders initiate hostilities they create the conditions—the extreme use of force coupled with limited accountability—for the war crimes which invariably follow. War crimes are therefore an inherent part of war. The suffering caused and the enmity aroused by war crimes must be regarded as costs of war. Since these and other costs far exceed any benefits of war, we seek to end war as a tool of international policy. Towards this goal, we believe that holding war criminals accountable will send a strong message to those currently in power to very carefully weigh all the consequences of the decision to go to war. While we recognize that United States has long relied on military force to further its foreign policy goals, we feel that the Bush Administration’s blatant and egregious violations of international law demand special attention. The WCT has resolved to see that Bush, Cheney, & Co. are prosecuted for war crimes no matter how long it takes. There is no statute of limitations on war crimes.

Get the 20-page summer edition--(preview below)
SEND your request (be sure to include mailing address) to:
editor@WarCrimesTimes.org
($25 per 90 postpaid; Individual and gift subscriptions-- 4 issues: $12. -- extra donations are welcome.)

THEN  Click "DONATE" below or
Send your check (memo "WCT") to:  WCT c/o VFP Chapter 099, PO Box 356, Mars Hill, NC 28754

Or order by mail Click order form.
Summer 2010 (click image)
Spring 2010 (click image)
Past issues:
Vol. II No. 1 Winter 2010
Vol. I No. 4 Fall 2009.
Vol. I No. 3 Summer 2009.

PLACE AN AD IN THE WCT!

WCT launched Jan. 2009: 10-minute video

See "Why Americans Gotta Read the War Crimes Times!"
Please also see:
Veterans For Peace
Combatants for Peace
After Downing Street
War Criminals Watch
Cheney Watch
Stop War UK
IndictBushNow.org
Greenville (SC) Antiwar Society

Archive of Articles
▼ 2010 (45)
▼ Jul (4)
Korean War Panel Finds U.S. Attacks on Civilians
Drivers, Cooks – Beware
Losing in Afghanistan
Homespun Domestic Terrorism
► Jun (6)
VETERANS’ BANNER TAGS ABANDONED DETROIT BUILDING: ....
Israeli leaders sued in Belgium for war crimes
ICC hypocrisy over war crimes
Peace Activist Kathy Kelly on the Secret U.S. War ...
A SOLDIER'S LAMENT
► May (7)
Remember Them, Don’t Martyr Them
Conflict of Interest Theater Co Presents WAR CRIME...
Ireland: Action To Arrest Wanted War Criminal Kiss...
Crimes Are Crimes - No Matter Who Does Them
In the news...
Army [UK] to be sued for war crimes over its role ...
Bush and Blair Guilty of War Crimes and Genocide
Drone Pilots Could Be Tried for ‘War Crimes,’ Law ...
No Where to Hide: Fears of Arrest and Prosecution ...
Crimes Are Crimes – No Matter Who Does Them
Stop war and war crimes by honoring a Peace Hero!
Ramsey Clark chosen to head commission to investig...
U.S. Special Forces 'tried to cover-up' botched Kh...
Preventing the next "Supreme International Crime"

McChrystal admits Afghan atrocities, press yawns
Trivializing War
Iraq Inquiry asks to question George Bush's senior...
Citizen's Arrest of Alleged War Criminal George W....
Tangled up in Yoo

Spain's Judge Garzón faces suspension--after openi...
WCT Exclusive: Interview with Frank Goldsmith, Gua...
Cheney Admits to War Crimes, Media Yawns, Obama Tu...
Read the Secret Torture Evidence Foreign Office re...
Tony Blair feels the heat over Iraq
Citizen's Arrest of War Criminals Tony Blair and G...
US drones killed 123 civilians, three al-Qaeda men...
Baby killed in Afghanistan attack

HISTORIAN ZINN SAID “LARGEST LIE” WAS U.S. “WAR ON...
Wanted: Tony Blair for war crimes. Arrest him and ...
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT COMPLAINT FILED AGAIN...
Executing Children in Afghanistan: Have Americans ...
Assassination by Drone: Is the Senate Armed Servic...
Iraq war was illegal, Dutch panel rules
France to set up judicial unit to investigate geno...
Just in case you don't know who the enemy is..

The United States Promotes Israeli Genocide Again...
War Crime Case Against Tony Blair Now Rock-solid
The Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder--The ...
Obama's Af-Pak War is Illegal
Film Review: "Vietnam – American Holocaust"
Support Independent Media
Bulk order & subscription fees almost cover our printing and postage costs. Your contribution helps with the costs of papers given out for free at public events. Please click "DONATE" above or send a check. Also, consider placing an ad. Inquire at editor@WarCrimesTimes.org

Tortured Logic -- ACLU
Watch the 2-minute video and send it to Eric Holder
Resolution (The Torture Song) three 30-second public service TV ads
The ads: 1 Cheney, 2 Holder, 3 Obama. (Read about see the whole six-minute music video in a posted article below.) If the "Resolution" song/video has inspired you to take action -- you can email or call Eric Holder at the DOJ. askdoj@usdoj.gov Call: 202-514-2001 202-514-2001. You can also donate to the ad campaign.

Bye bye Bybee
Activists in Portland, OR demonstrate in front of 9th Circuit courthouse, calling for the impeachment of Jay Bybee--"the Torture Judge." See two 8-minute videos: the vigil and "Why Impeach Bybee?" WCT on Wall St.

A three trillion dollar war and a financial collapse...Hmm!!!

Torture Memos
Read them at ACLU's website
Reining in the Imperial Presidency
Lessons and Recommendations Relating to the Presidency of George W. Bush. House Committee on the Judiciary Majority Staff Final Report to Chairman John Conyers, Jr. Read the 541-page report (or at least the 7-page Forward and 8-page Executive Summary).
For More information
Laws Violated by Bush & Co.
ProsecuteBushCheney.org
VFP Prosecution Campaign
Demanding Justice in Portland, OR
See a nine-minute video of one of the weekly street demonstrations (which includes a plug for The War Crimes Times).
What a Resource!
Please take a minute (or more likely an hour) to check out Andy Worthington's Guantánamo: The Definitive Prisoner List. This impressive resource contains links to hundreds of articles and is organized with an alphabetical listing of names and topics (e.g. Conditions at Guantanamo, David Addington, David Hicks, Dick Cheney, Diego Garcia, East African prisoners, Egyptians in Guantanamo, Extraordinary rendition and secret prisons, FBI/CIA, and so on...) as well as all the Gitmo prisoners listed by ISN (Internment Serial Number).
Links to articles of interest
"Are We Civilized Enough to Hold Our Leaders Accountable for War Crimes?..." -- by John W. Dean,
"Democrats Inch Toward Torture Probe" -- by Jason Leopold
Israeli PM in War Crimes Pledge
Israeli Commanders in Crosshairs for War Crimes
"Amnesty International Accuses Israel of War Crimes in Gaza" -- by Ben Knight
"Obama Nation Upholds US Terror" -- by Mickey Z.
"Conyers Backs Prosecution..." -- by David Swanson
"Initiate Criminal Proceedings Against Bush and Rumsfeld Now" -- by Scott Horton
WCT -- The Commercial
A two-minute video from Individuals For Justice--Portland OR.
Banner Says It All

VFP Action at National Archives
Would Truth Commssion Be Just a War Crimes Whitewash?
See Law Professor Jonathan Turley's interview.
Corporate Media & War Crimes by Linda LeTendre
There's a bumper sticker that's been around for a long time that reads, “When the people lead, the leaders will follow.” I saw evidence of that possibility this past weekend at the Veterans For Peace (VFP) action on Saturday the 17th at the Newseum, the museum of the the corporate media in Washington, DC.
More than 30 activists gathered at the Newseum to launch the inaugural edition of “The War Crimes Times”, a newspaper that does what our “liberal” media has failed to do -- and that is to give the American public the information it needs to hold the Bush Administration accountable for their actions and policies in the Iraq War.... See full article
VFP Case for:
Impeachment and Prosecution
Questions and comments:
editor@WarCrimesTimes.org

Fear, secrecy kept 1950 Korea mass killings hidden
By CHARLES J. HANLEY, AP Special Correspondent
May 18, 2008
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080518/ap_on_re_as/korea_mass_executions_covered_up

CONDOLEEZA RICE
New Zealand Students Offer New Bounty For Arrest of Condoleezza Rice For War Crimes
http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2008/07/26/10631/

WORLD

“Sudan President Likely to Face War Charges,” TMN (7-12-08). “The prosecutor of the world’s first permanent war crimes tribunal will seek an arrest warrant…charging Sudan’s president with crimes against humanity and genocide in Darfur…..”

A conference on holding high-level officials accountable for war crimes was held in September this year. Here is the official website of the conference. -Carl

http://war-crimes.info/index.html

WAR LORDS AND WAR CRIMES
War Crimes Court is prosecuting Congolese warlords. Why not use Court for criminal war lords in Afghanistan? Some of them are allies of US.