

Revolution received the following:

# The 2005 International Commission of Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity Committed by the Bush Administration of the United States

## First Session:

Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22, Grand Ballroom of the Manhattan Center, 311 W. 34th Street, New York City

When the possibility of far-reaching war crimes and crimes against humanity exists, people of conscience have a solemn responsibility to inquire into the nature and scope of these acts and to determine if they do in fact rise to the level of war crimes and crimes against humanity. That is the mission of the International Commission of Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity. It will be held October 21-23 in New York City. This tribunal will, with care and rigor, present evidence and assess whether George W. Bush and his administration have committed crimes against humanity. Well-established international law will be referenced where applicable, but the tribunal will not be limited by the scope of existing international law.

The tribunal will deliberate on four categories of indictable crimes:

- 1) Wars of Aggression, with particular reference to the invasions and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan.
- 2) Torture and Indefinite Detention, with particular reference to the abandonment of international standards concerning the treatment of prisoners of war and the use of torture.
- 3) Destruction of the Global Environment, with particular reference to systematic policies contributing to the catastrophic effects of global warming.
- 4) Attacks on Global Public Health and Reproductive Rights, with particular reference to the genocidal effects of forcing international agencies to promote "abstinence only" in the midst of a global AIDS epidemic.

**The Commission is sponsored by the Not In Our Name statement of conscience, joined by the following individuals and organizations:**

[List in formation]

**As'ad AbuKhalil**, professor of politics & public administration, California State University-Stanislaus

**Dirk Adriaensens**, BRussells Tribunal executive committee and coordinator SOS Iraq

**Dr. Nadje Al-Ali**, social anthropologist at the University of Exeter, founding member of Act Together: Women's Action on Iraq & and member Women in Black UK

**Anthony Alessandrini**, organizer with the World Tribunal on Iraq and New York University Students for Justice in Palestine

**Edward Asner**

**Russell Banks**, novelist

**Amy Bartholomew**, professor of law at Carleton University

**Greg Bates**, Common Courage Press

**Michael S. Berg**, grieving father of Nick Berg killed in Iraq May 7, 2004, and one man for Peace

**William Blum**, author of *Killing Hope: US Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II* and *Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower*

**Francis Boyle**, author of *Destroying World Order* and professor at the University of Illinois College of Law

**Jean Bricmont**, BRussells Tribunal executive committee

**Marjorie Cohn**, professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and executive vice president of National Lawyers Guild

**Lieven De Caeter**, BRussells Tribunal executive committee

**Patrick Deboosere**, BRussells Tribunal executive committee

**Peter Erlinder**, William Mitchell College of Law and lead defense counsel, United Nations Criminal Tribunal for

Rwanda, Arusha, Tanzania  
**Larry Everest**, author of *Oil, Power & Empire: Iraq and the U.S. Global Agenda* and *Behind the Poison Cloud: Union Carbide's Bhopal Massacre*

**Thomas M. Fasy**, MD, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York City

**Lawrence Ferlinghetti**, member, American Academy of Arts & Letters and founder & editor in chief, City Lights Books, San Francisco

**Ted Glick**, former coordinator, Independent Progressive Politics Network

**Dr. Elaine C. Hagopian**, former president of Association of Arab-American University Graduates (AAUG) and primary founder of the Trans-Arab Research Institute (TARI)

**Sam Hamill**, director, Poets Against War

**International Movement for a Just World (JUST)**, Malaysia

**Dahr Jamail**, U.S. independent journalist who has reported extensively from Iraq since the invasion

**C. Clark Kissinger**, contributing writer for *Revolution* and initiator of the Not In Our Name statement of conscience

**The Reverend Doctor Earl Kooperkamp**, Rector, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, West Harlem, New York City

**Joel Kovel**, editor-in-chief, *Capitalism Nature Socialism: A Quarterly Journal of Socialist Ecology*, and author of *The Enemy of Nature*

**Jesse Lemisch**, professor of history emeritus, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

**Rabbi Michael Lerner**, editor of *Tikkun* magazine and author of *The Left Hand of God: Taking Back America*

from the Religious Right  
**National Lawyers Guild**  
**National Lawyers Guild, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter**  
**Rev. Davidson Loehr, Ph.D.**, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, Texas  
**Robert Meeropol**, Executive Director, Rosenberg Fund for Children

**Barbara Olshansky**, deputy legal director of the Center for Constitutional Rights and author of *Secret Trials and Executions*

**James Petras**, professor emeritus of sociology at Binghamton University, New York

**Jeremy Pikser**, screenwriter  
**Michael Ratner**, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights and author with Ellen Ray of *Guantanamo: What the World Should Know*

**Stephen F. Rohde**, civil liberties lawyer and co-founder of Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace

**Marc Sapir MD, MPH**, co-convenor of the UC Berkeley Teach In on Torture and executive director of Retro Poll

**Sister Annette M. Sinagra, OP**

**Inge Van de Merlen**, BRussells Tribunal executive committee

**Anne Weills**, civil rights attorney in Oakland, National Lawyers Guild

**Leonard Weinglass**, criminal defense attorney

**Naomi Weisstein**, professor emeritus of Neuroscience, State University of NY at Buffalo

**Howard Zinn**, historian

[institutions referenced for identification only]

The Commission's jury of conscience will be composed of internationally respected jurists and legal scholars, prominent voices of conscience, and experts and monitors in relevant fields. The tribunal's legitimacy is derived from its integrity, its rigor in the presentation of evidence, and the stature of its participants. Representatives of the Bush administration will be invited to present a defense.

Prior to the meeting of the Commission, teams with sufficient expertise will prepare preliminary indictments in each of the four areas, setting forth the scope of the Bush administration's actions and how they contravene legal and moral norms for international behavior. At the meeting of the Commission, there will be four prosecution teams that organize the presentation of the evidence. This evidence will be documents as well as eyewitness testimony by victims and observers of the crimes alleged. The formal proceedings will be held in a public venue and all attempts will be made to publicize and broadcast its deliberations internationally. The Commission's jury of conscience will come to verdicts and its findings will be published.

The holding of this tribunal will frame and fuel a discussion that is urgently needed in the United States: Is the administration of George W. Bush guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity? The Commission will conduct its work with a deep sense of responsibility to the people of the world.

## Overall Plan for the Commission Sessions

The commission aims to both frame and fuel a society-wide discussion of whether, or not, the administration of George W. Bush is guilty of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other high crimes. It will do this by bringing the truth to light, and by applying exacting standards, to determine if unpardonable crimes have been committed.

This discussion, in these terms, is both sorely needed and increasingly possible now because of actual events and the rising public anger at the Bush administration. With a deep sense of responsibility to the people of the world, we have to seize this moment — a time to change how people see and think about the Bush administration and its actions.

The Commission will be conducted in two sessions. The first session will be held on October 21 and 22. The second session will be held within the next few months.

### THE FIRST SESSION

**Day One - Friday, October 21, 2005**

The opening will serve as a high-profile declaration of intent, anchored by prominent voices of conscience addressing the historical, moral, and political responsibility this commission is shouldering. It will also underline the need for procedural and evidentiary rigor, and establish standards for what constitutes a crime against humanity. Following the opening, there will be a presentation of the indictments in the four areas cited in the Charter, with some preview of the testimony including first-hand witnesses, expert testimony, and key documents that establish the Bush administration's culpability.

With these presentations on the first day a full and clarifying picture of the Bush administration will emerge —

something unconscionable on the scales of history. It is an opening salvo for the whole Commission, setting a audacious tone with moral and political heft, and having an impact in public consciousness.

**Day Two - Saturday, October 22, 2005**

The second day we will hold an evidentiary hearing to determine if the Bush administration's response to Hurricane Katrina also warrants an indictment and prosecution under the charter and scope of the Commission. This hearing manifests our responsibility to the mission of the commission — that when the possibility of crimes against humanity exists, we, as people of conscience, have a solemn responsibility to inquire into the nature and scope of these acts and to determine if they do in fact rise to this level — and not fulfilling this would be gravely negligent.

The hearing will principally consist of eye-witness testimony from victims of Katrina, together with accounts from rescue workers, and testimony from experts on the Bush administration's actions and policies before, during, and after the Katrina disaster.

### THE SECOND SESSION

The second session will held by early January at the latest. It will be at least a three-day session to present all the witnesses, experts, and documentary evidence on each of the indictments, with the comprehensiveness and standards required to prosecute the case and to fulfill the mission of the Charter. The jury of conscience will then consider the evidence and deliver its opinion on each count of the indictments. This Commission will itself be an audacious undertaking, one with the potential to make great societal impact. To realize this vision will require many people working in concert, on many levels.

\*\*  
**Web: [nion.us/commission.htm](http://nion.us/commission.htm)**  
**Contact: [commission@nion.us](mailto:commission@nion.us)**