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 in fact rise to the level of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The 2005 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 and applied, 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) War 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 minimum standards concerning the treatment of prisoners of war and the use of torture. 3) Destruction of the Global Environment, with particular reference to the genocidal effects of forcing international agencies to promote “sustainable only” in the midst of a global AIDS epidemic. 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 the widespread recognition of its participants. 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: How can the Bush administration's response to crimes against humanity constitute a crime against humanity? How can indictment and prosecution under the charter and scope of the Commission. This hearing manifests our responsibility to the mission of the commission – and its actions. The Commission will be conducted in two sessions. The first session will be held on October 21st and the second session will be held within the next few months.

**First Session:**

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

**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 and war crimes against humanity? 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 21st and 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 presentations and expert testimony on the Bush administration's actions and policies before, during and after the Katrina disaster.

**The Second Session**

The second session will be held by early January at the latest. It will be at least as audacious a tone with moral and political urgency. The opening will address the historical, moral, and political responsibility this commission is shuddering. It will also underpin 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 key witnesses. The following will be 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 uncontrollable on the scopes 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.

Further, while it’s not surprising that the U.S. government’s secret detention centers go along with Guantánamo and the other military camps, it seems that so far, at least, no one is willing to go against the U.S. on this. People who find these outrageous intolerable will either have to live with them, or take mass action themselves to end this situation and all that lies behind it.