

OMNI WAR CRIMES NEWSLETTER #1,

October 8, 2011.

Compiled by Dick Bennett for a

Culture of Peace

Here is the link to all OMNI newsletters:

<http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/>

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DOCUMENTARY

War Is Not a Game

History of international laws of war from First Geneva Convention to present and examination of the morality of combat. Recounts experiences of 8 soldiers at war on several continents and their responses to the many international agreements regulating armed conflict. Shown on Free Speech TV.

US LAWLESSNESS IN IRAQ

BLOOD ON OUR HANDS: The American Invasion and Destruction of Iraq by Nicolas Davies. 2010. Each chapter gives details of the

violations of international law by US leaders and troops in Iraq during the invasion and occupation. The book is pervaded by Davies' thorough knowledge of the legal documents (UN Charter, Nuremberg rulings, Geneva Conventions), the crimes committed, and the laws violated. We know what is right, we have the legal framework to end war-making and its atrocities. It's up to the people to make it work.

KILLING CIVILIANS IN AFGHANISTAN

Published by the International Committee of the Fourth International (ICFI)

Rolling Stone publishes photos of US war crimes in Afghanistan

By Naomi Spencer
29 March 2011

Rolling Stone magazine has published a detailed report and images that document war crimes in Afghanistan committed by the so-called Army “kill team” in 2010. The exposé, “The Kill Team,” written by Mark Boal and [published](#) online March 27, includes 18 gruesome photographs and two videos taken by soldiers who took part in patrols in Kandahar province.

The images, which are far more graphic than the three published by the German magazine *Der Spiegel* last week, are part of a collection of some 4,000 photographs that the US military has sought to suppress for fear of a popular backlash—both domestically and in Afghanistan—against the war. *Rolling Stone* obtained more than 150 of the images.

In several photos, soldiers are shown grinning over the corpses of unarmed civilians. Images also show the hand of a victim whose finger had been removed as a memento by soldiers, a soldier hoisting up a severed head with a stick, badly mutilated body parts, and propped-up corpses bound together with signs hung on them in front of military vehicles.

Both the volume and content of the images reveal that the murder of innocent civilians in Kandahar was commonplace, widely known about, and celebrated. The evidence also suggests that the number of sport killings exceeded the four for which 12 members of the 5th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Division have been charged. Moreover, some of the images may document war crimes carried out by other brigades.

Primary responsibility for these crimes rests with the Obama administration, which is overseeing the occupation of Afghanistan, grotesquely titled “Operation Enduring Freedom,” and its escalation across the border into Pakistan. In the past year, military forces have carried out drone attacks and bloody night raids that have reaped a civilian death toll in the thousands.

The release of these images comes as the Obama administration, in collaboration with European powers, has launched another neocolonial war in Libya under the pretext of defending civilians.

Before the images were leaked to the media, the military sought to confiscate all files from soldiers and their relatives. As early as May of 2010, Afghanistan commander Gen. Stanley McChrystal and President Hamid Karzai were warned of the potential for a public explosion. As the photos begin to come to light, officials at the highest levels of the Pentagon and Obama administration have strained to present the crimes that are depicted as simply the work of a handful of depraved individuals. . . .

MORE: <http://www.wsws.org/articles/2011/mar2011/kill-m29.shtml>

Obama Team Feared Coup If He Prosecuted War Crimes

Andrew Kreig, Justice Integrity Project , September 9, 2011

Kreig writes: "President-Elect Obama's advisors feared in 2008 that authorities would revolt and that Republicans would block his policy agenda if he prosecuted Bush-era war crimes, according to a law school dean who served as one of Obama's top transition advisers."

READ MORE <http://www.readersupportednews.org/opinion2/424-national-security/7367-focus-obama-team-feared-coup-if-he-prosecuted-war-crimes>

“Obama Bans War Criminals, Except Our Own. ”

Nat Hentoff, The Star Democrat, RSN August 19, 2011

"By executive order on August 4, President Barack Obama refused entry to the United States of war criminals and human-rights violators. He ignored, as he often does, the deeply documented factual evidence of war crimes committed by the Bush-Cheney administration along with grim proof that the Obama administration also violates our anti-torture laws and the UN Convention Against Torture we signed."

READ MORE <http://readersupportednews.org/off-site-opinion-section/123-123/7110-focus-obama-bans-war-criminals-except-our-own>

Demand Accountability!

Thus far the U.S. has failed to prosecute anyone up the chain of command for abuses that have occurred in the highest offices of the United States of America, setting a precedent for future leaders to repeat the same crimes. That is why CODEPINK is modeling citizen justice (with a splash of pink) by holding the former Bush administration, Obama administration and others accountable for leading us into unjust and illegal military interventions. As we stand on the shoulders of the peace and social justice activists who came before us, we know that change will not occur unless citizens stand up for their rights under the law.

Take Action!

- Obama: Update Your War Status! [Join the Facebook Group!](#)
- Tell Secretary of State Hillary Clinton: [Use Diplomacy to Bring About a Ceasefire in Libya](#)
- Make calls to the **White House** and **Attorney General Holder** at the Department of Justice and tell them to hold senior Bush administration officials accountable:

Eric Holder, Attorney General	202-514-2001
White House	202-456-1111

- [Sign a Petition Telling Holder To Expand Criminal Investigations to include Senior Bush Administration!](#)
- Move Bush, Rove, Rice and Rumsfeld's books to the new crime section or other sections in local (book)stores! [Play the "Where's W's Book?" Contest](#). Be sure to leave our "[The Real Decision Points](#)" bookmark inside a few copies of Bush's book and inside [Rumfeld's book](#) too! Just download, print, cut and go!
- [Pass an ordinance in your community](#) to promote executive accountability for human rights abuses, such as torture
- Have an outside or inside presence at a war criminal event! [Print out this petition and take it with you!](#)
- Stage a citizens arrest

Citizen's Arrest: A Simple How-To Guide

1. Pick a war criminal: Many of these lawyers, advisors, former vice presidents, are now making the rounds on the speaker circuit, giving interviews and speeches in cities around the world. Check out local event

calendars and make a habit of surfing the web to see who will be where. Below are some names, charges against them and more--you can see a longer [list by state here](#). Or check out [WarCriminalWatch](#) or view [Crimes and Misdemeanors--Slate's Interactive Guide: Who in the Bush administration broke the law, and who could be prosecuted?](#)

2. Strategy: Once you find a war criminal's whereabouts, get a few members of your local peace community together to plan your strategy. Will you be buying tickets and going inside or staying outside with banners and signs, etc? Will you be doing a symbolic citizen's arrest or will you actually be trying to slap the cuffs on 'em?
3. Accessories:
 - Hand-cuffs (local costume shop)
 - Pink fabric banner that folds up small and discreet (for the inside action) or bigger banners and signs (for the outside action). Keep the messaging simple. "Arrest (war criminal's name here)" and "War Criminal!" are great--don't forget to put CODEPINKalert.org on the bottom!
 - Arrest Complaint (to be presented to the war criminal)
 - Camera and/or Video Camera + someone on your team in charge of documenting the action. 2 members of CODEPINK recently stormed the stage of RadioCity Music Hall to arrest Rove. Over 1,000 people saw it happen and not one photo or video clip. Don't let that happen to you! Be prepared to post the photos/video online after
 - Citizen's Arrest complaint (to hold as a visual and read to the war criminal present). We have one for Rove using California code [here](#) & a Citizen's Complaint for Chevron lawyer William Haynes [here](#). Note: It will be necessary to modify according to state and the charges against the individual. Some charges are listed below but it could be helpful to do some research and or consult with any friends of yours in the legal community.

Go for it! Be courageous, be bold, be loud, be smart and stay on message!

ACCOUNTABILITY PIE by Jodie Evans

Ingredients:

Preparation:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1/2 cup Courage, steeped in 1/2 Cup Street Smarts ● 3/4 cup Strategy ● 1 Pair of Handcuffs, as a prop ● 1 (or more, use your discretion) War Criminal ● 1 tablespoon Extract of Level-Headedness ● 1 Citizen's Arrest Complaint, adjusted to the laws of your state ● 3 heaping cups of Desire to See War Criminals Held | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educate yourself on who's who in the war criminal community. Find out about war criminals through CODEPINK's card deck online at www.codepink.org/warcriminal 2. Keep your eyes open for speaking engagements, book tour stops or other appearances by any war criminals (government or corporate). Depending on the circumstances, purchase or reserve a ticket, buy a book, stand in line or otherwise peacefully enter the proceedings. Discern whether your bag will be searched by security at the event. If so, handily slip your handcuffs and other arrest materials into your sleeves, your pockets, your pants or any other inconspicuous areas. Choose your seat carefully and observe the general "feel" of the crowd. 3. While you wait in line or sit in the audience, you may feel nervous and doubt your ability to pull this off. Instead of dwelling on your fear, think of the millions of Iraqis who've been cast from their homes by the war Bush brought to their country. Think of the thousands of American sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters who've given their lives to this fruitless enterprise. Think of the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis who've been killed, maimed, raped and plunged into destitution. Think of the inhuman, incalculable tragedy that this war has brought to everyone it's touched. 4. Then remember that this is your job and your right as a citizen, look into the eyes of the war criminal, keep your cool, and non-violently attempt a citizen's arrest. |
|--|--|

Accountable for
Their Crimes

- 1 Photographer and 1 Videographer (to spread the story to the media and give inspiration to others)
- **Optional:** a team of dedicated peace activists to join your action by holding banners, asking questions, holding an outside protest, etc.

5. Rise from your seat and say loudly "(ie DICK CHENEY) You are under arrest for war crimes!" Be prepared with a short line to say over and over. Hold up your handcuffs and your citizen's arrest complaint. Unfurl a banner if you have one. Make sure that your friend is recording you with a video recorder (a Flip camera works great for quick uploading to YouTube after your action).

Note: Do NOT actually place the handcuffs on the war criminal's wrist or touch the criminal. Making physical contact with a war criminal may be construed as assault by the police; handcuffs are only for use as a prop. Only an on-duty police officer has the right to actually cuff the War Criminal in a citizen's arrest. Your arrest complaint is your power.

6. After your action, immediately get the story out by calling reporters, writing a blog, posting your video and/or photos, and getting in touch with CODEPINK by emailing locals@codepinkalert.org!

Another slice of justice, served up with courage!

[Join the CODEPINK Glitterati](#)[Most Wanted War Criminals List](#)[War Criminal Watch Calendar](#)[PINK Fail: Exposing the Obama administration](#)[The Bush Six](#)[Demand for the Restoration of Rule of Law & Accountability](#) [Become a Bounty Hunter or Donor!](#)[Host a War Criminals Card Party!](#)[Arrest YouTubes](#)[Local Action Spotlight](#)[War Criminal \(S\)hero!](#)

About CODEPINK

CODEPINK is a women-initiated grassroots peace and social justice movement working to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, stop new wars, and redirect our resources into healthcare, education, green jobs and other life-affirming activities. The name CODEPINK plays on the Bush Administration's color-coded homeland security alerts — yellow, orange, red — that signaled terrorist threats. While Bush's color-coded alerts were based on fear and used to justify violence, the CODEPINK Alert is a feisty call for women and men to "wage peace." [More...](#)

[View Larger](#)

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Transforming Terror: Remembering the Soul of the World

Karin Lofthus Carrington (Editor), Susan Griffin (Editor), 2011.

Available worldwide

READ AN EXCERPT [Read an Excerpt \(PDF\)](#)

This inspired collection offers a new paradigm for moving the world beyond violence as the first, and often only, response to violence. Through essays and poetry, prayers and mediations, *Transforming Terror* powerfully demonstrates that terrorist violence—defined here as any attack on unarmed civilians—can never be stopped by a return to the thinking that created it. A diverse array of contributors—writers, healers, spiritual and political leaders, scientists, and activists, including Desmond Tutu, Huston Smith, Riane Eisler, Daniel Ellsberg, Amos Oz, Fatema Mernissi, Fritjof Capra, George Lakoff, Mahmoud Darwish, Terry Tempest Williams, and Jack Kornfield—

considers how we might transform the conditions that produce terrorist acts and bring true healing to the victims of these acts. Broadly encompassing both the Islamic and Western worlds, the book explores the nature of consciousness and offers a blueprint for change that makes peace possible. From unforgettable firsthand accounts of terrorism, the book draws us into awareness of our ecological and economic interdependence, the need for connectedness, and the innate human capacity for compassion.

Evidence Mounts of War Crimes Unfolding in South Sudan

Inaki Borda, News Report : "Witnesses reported that attacks continue on civilian populations in South Sudan, even as the United Nations calls for a thorough investigation into violations of international law carried out in South Kordofan state in June. Those violations, if substantiated, are said to amount to crimes against humanity or war crimes. Alleged violations comprise "extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and illegal detention, enforced disappearances, attacks against civilians, looting of civilian homes, destruction of property as well as massive displacement." READ | DISCUSS | SHARE

<http://www.nationofchange.org/evidence-mounts-war-crimes-unfolding-south-sudan-1313766537>

BOOKS

Bartov, Omer, et al., eds. *Crimes of War: Guilt and Denial in the Twentieth Century*. New Press, 2002. Historians explore how societies remember or forget the atrocities their soldiers and citizens have committed.

END OF WAR CRIMES NEWSLETTER #1