

Iraq: The US Sponsored Sectarian “Civil War” is a “War of Aggression”, The “Supreme International Crime”

Only Law Can Save Iraq - and Ourselves

By [Inder Comar](#)

Global Research, June 18, 2014

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#), [Law and Justice](#)

In-depth Report: [IRAQ REPORT](#)

More than 11 years ago, high ranking government leaders in the United States and Britain likely broke international law in planning and waging the Iraq War.

The great command of the Nuremberg Tribunal convened after the Second World War to punish the evil that had shaken Europe was to abolish the “supreme international crime” – the planning and waging of wars of aggression. “War is essentially an evil thing,” the Tribunal held as it passed judgment on German leaders. “Its consequences are not confined to the belligerent states alone, but affect the whole world.”

Decades later, today, Iraqis experience the stark truth behind these words. Iraq descends into chaos; even after 11 years of war, there is seemingly no end to the innocents who are chased from their homes, shot at, maimed and killed as a direct result of decisions made by leaders thousands of miles away, in other time zones, speaking other languages, and without apparent concern for the consequences of their actions.

The world was supposed to have learned from the catastrophes of the 20th century. But it was only a few years into the 21st before that supreme crime was initiated yet again – this time, by the authors of that same law, forgetting that it was another American, Robert H. Jackson, who had placed his trust that law would put an end to aggression once and for all.

There is only a single antidote to the “civil war” that is now breaking Iraq apart – and that is a return to law and a convening of justice. The war launched by government leaders in 2003 against the people of Iraq was not a mistake: it was a crime. And those leaders should be held to account, under law, for their decisions.

Only law will save Iraq. And only law will save those Americans — a great many Americans, perhaps even the majority of Americans — who understand, deeply, that something truly wrong happened in 2003 that should not and cannot happen again. Iraqis have paid for this with blood; but Americans pay, too, in the loss of a national character that holds deep and abiding convictions regarding the good that America does in the world.

The fate of Iraqis is now tied indelibly to the fate of Americans. Americans may have been fooled into war and permitted it; but they can do much to help end it. They can return to a

cherished tradition of legalism that sparked the Constitutional Convention and that Tribunal which sat in judgment at Nuremberg. There is a powerful, humbling and radiant American legal tradition that recognizes that even rulers are under the law.

Law is the bulwark that sustains civilization. Without law — as so many Iraqis now bear witness — there is only chaos, and anarchy, and the rule of the strong over the weak. If Americans permit their leaders to commit the supreme crime, what else can follow? Iraq may be a portent of things to come in that sense. But it also presents an opportunity for Americans, and Iraqis, and people of all nations, to reject militarism and aggression in favor of dignity and civilization.

Let us call the war in Iraq what it was: an illegal act of aggression. And let us remember the legal maxim that for every wrong, there is a remedy. Let us summon the courage to call for such a remedy, under law.

D. Inder Comar is legal director at Comar Law. Comar Law is currently litigating a lawsuit against members of the Bush Administration for allegedly committing aggression against Iraq (Saleh v. Bush, N.D. Cal. Mar. 13, 2013, 13-cv-1124 JST).

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Inder Comar](#), Global Research, 2014

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Inder Comar](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca