



**PGPO CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION
EXPOSE WAR CRIMES: CRIMINALISE WAR
5th -7th FEBRUARY 2007
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- Selected Press Reviews -



Wednesday February 7, 4:20 PM

U.S., Israel face trial in unofficial war tribunal in Malaysia

(Kyodo) _ A tribunal initiated by former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was launched Wednesday to hear complaints of abuse and torture by victims of war in Iraq and the Palestinian territory.

Ten have come forward with volumes of evidence and witness testimony to back their claims of being abused in the hands of soldiers from the United States in Iraq and the Israeli military in the Palestinian territory.

Among the victims who want their case to be heard are Ali Shalal Qaissi, a former detainee at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison, and Walid Salah Al Khatib, a Palestinian doctor in Palestine.

"It pains me greatly to see that my country that I so love and cherish...is nothing but the epitome of destruction perpetrated by the most powerful and supposedly democratic country in the world," said another petitioner, Faiza Alaraji, an Iraqi woman whose home in Baghdad was destroyed during the invasion by the United States in 2003.

The war crimes tribunal, presently made up of nine former judges and legal experts, carries no legal weight, but as Mahathir said, it will at least "assuage" the victims' pain.

The membership of the tribunal is now largely Malaysian. Among the non-Malaysian members is Francis A. Boyle, a professor of law at the University of Illinois in the United States and a former legal adviser to the Palestinian Liberation Organization. He is now engaged in the court martial of Lt. Ehren Watada, the first U.S. soldier who refused deployment to Iraq.

Mahathir said the panel would be enlarged "so that the tribunal will be properly represented by eminent jurists from all corners of the globe."

Mahathir chairs a six-member commission that will verify testimony given by the victims to decide if they merit a hearing by the tribunal.

"We of the commission look upon these as human tragedies, not confined to any particular race, religion, creed or faith. This is a terrible time that we are living in when powerful, responsible people are quite willing to sanction actions that are totally inhumane," Mahathir said.

"I hope we will be able to achieve something in the way of assuaging the pain that has been suffered by so many people in Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan and elsewhere."



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Both the commission and tribunal met for the first time Wednesday on the sideline of an antiwar conference organized by the Perdana Global Peace Organization that was established by Mahathir after his retirement in 2003.

Similar attempts to establish an unofficial war crimes tribunal were made in Turkey in 2005. One of the recommendations from the previous tribunal was for U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair to be held responsible for war crimes.

Bush and Blair, whom Mahathir has labeled as "killers" and "liars," will definitely find themselves once again in the dock.

Mahathir said earlier that while the tribunal cannot set penalties, its objective was to condemn the leaders so that they would go down in history as "war criminals."

Wednesday February 7, 2007

War crimes tribunal launched in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad launched a war tribunal Wednesday that plans to hold trials based on complaints by Iraqis and Palestinians against world leaders including U.S. President George W. Bush.

The Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal, which opened with a preliminary meeting, would not have the legal authority of an international organization and could not impose penalties, but its main aim is to condemn leaders in history books.

The nine-member tribunal is tasked with hearing cases recommended to it by a separate commission chaired by Mahathir. On Wednesday, the commission has received its first petition signed by 10 people who called themselves victims of crimes against humanity, mostly in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestinian territories.

"We of the commission look upon these (cases) as a human tragedy, not confined to any particular race, religion, creed or faith," Mahathir told more than 1,000 peace activists.

It is not clear how long the commission will take to investigate the petition before the tribunal can start working.

"I hope we will be able to achieve something in ways of assuaging the pain that has been suffered by so many people in Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan and elsewhere," Mahathir said.

Most of the tribunal members are Malaysian legal experts and former judges, including chairman Abdul Kadir Sulaiman, a former judge in Malaysia's highest court.

He said the tribunal plans to add more international members "so that we will be properly represented by eminent jurists from all corners of the globe."



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The complainants include Ali Shalal Qaissi, an Iraqi who claims he suffered brutal torture including electric shocks while in detention at the Abu Ghraib prison, and Walid Salah, a Palestinian doctor who worked in occupied territories.

Mahathir said he expects Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Australian Prime Minister John Howard to be among those leaders accused of committing crimes against humanity.

"We the victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and such other crimes as contained in the relevant international laws and conventions do hereby petition (the commission) to act on our petition pertaining to the various injustices committed against us," said the memorandum submitted to Mahathir.

Six complainants submitted individual written complaints citing alleged violations, mostly by the U.S. and Israel, in places such as Abu Ghraib, the former Iraqi insurgency stronghold of Fallujah, and Jenin in the West Bank. - AP

Mahathir's war crimes tribunal meets in Malaysia

7th February 2007, 18:00 WST



Malaysia's former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad convened a war crimes tribunal today to hear complaints by Iraqis and Palestinians against world leaders including John Howard and George W Bush.

The Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal, which opened with a preliminary meeting, would not have the legal authority of an international organisation and could not impose penalties, but its main aim was to condemn leaders in history books.

Mahathir reiterated that he expected Howard, Bush and Tony Blair to be among the leaders accused of committing crimes against humanity.

The nine-member tribunal is tasked with hearing cases recommended to it by a separate commission chaired by Mahathir.

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Six complainants submitted individual written complaints citing alleged violations, mostly by the US and Israel, in places such as Abu Ghraib, the former Iraqi insurgency stronghold of Fallujah, and Jenin in the West Bank.

"It pains me greatly to see that my country that I so love and cherish ... is nothing but the epitome of destruction perpetrated by the most powerful and supposedly democratic country in the world," said Faiza Alaraji, an Iraqi woman whose Baghdad home was destroyed in the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

KUALA LUMPUR

Blair, Bush in 'war crimes trial'

By Jonathan Kent

Kuala Lumpur

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6336333.stm>

A tribunal to try UK Prime Minister Tony Blair and US President George Bush for war crimes will be convened on Wednesday.



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It is no surprise that neither man will be attending the proceedings - they may not even be aware that it is taking place.

But start it will, at a conference in Kuala Lumpur called as part of the former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's campaign to criminalise war.

Dr Mahathir is not expected to sit on the tribunal. He couldn't quite be characterised as impartial.

Dr Mahathir said: "What is Blair if not the co-murderer of 500,000 Iraqi children and the liar who told the British that Saddam had WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) which could be launched against Britain within 45 minutes?"



The anti-war demo was convened in Kuala Lumpur

"History should remember Blair and Bush as the 'killers of children'."

Although the aim of the conference - entitled Expose War Crimes, Criminalise War - is to outlaw war itself, for many Malaysians who've turned up that means one thing.

"They're giving an open mind to people who know what kind of war crime that the US do to our communities in the world," was one man's assessment. It seemed to be that of most people.

"It is the converted preaching to the converted," said Gwynne Dyer, a journalist and Oscar-nominated documentary maker who addressed the conference.

"But I think this [conference] has potential," he said. "It actually has a goal beyond cheering people up and allowing them to vent."

And there's a lot of venting going on here. Specifically it seems to be to vilify Tony Blair and George Bush.

'Vast conspiracy'

The meeting has attracted a curious range of speakers.

The former UN humanitarian co-ordinator in Iraq Hans Von Sponeck shares a platform with author Alfred Lambremont Webre.



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Mr Webre claims to have uncovered a vast conspiracy to profit from wars. He's also keenly interested in intelligent extra-terrestrial life.

The message is made quite clear by an exhibition staged in parallel with the conference. Its style is Madame Tussauds on a shoestring, and it features tableaux illustrating the carnage of the world wars, the Palestinian problem, Vietnam and of course Iraq.

There's a section comprising a cage and a couple of dummies wired up to electrodes with the song Rivers of Babylon pumping away in the background.

A helpful notice tells us that the "cheerful" music of Boney M was used as an instrument of torture in the Iraq prison at Abu Ghraib.

Dr Mahathir is busy signing autographs. A woman passes him a copy of her programme to sign.

"Oh Dr Mahathir", she coos, "you're more handsome in person than you are in photographs."

The 81-year-old statesman takes it in his stride.

His admirer persists. "I'm honoured, I'm standing in front of you, I'm shaking I feel like I'm in love for the first time," she says.

"Shameless flattery," I suggested to Dr Mahathir.

"Yes, it's flattery," he said with a grave smile.

Resignation calls

But there's no flattery when I ask him if he has anything to add about Mr Blair.

"What do I have to say about him? I think it's about time he resigns. Don't wait too long, people are impatient. It's time he resigns. He's been telling lies."

Not everyone is convinced that Dr Mahathir is a suitable figurehead for a new human rights movement.

After all, his record during 22 years in power was far from unblemished.

He detained political opponents without trial and had scant regard for the freedom of the press. His administration was accused of turning a blind eye to torture.



Some question Dr Mahathir's human rights credentials



The demo featured some anti-war exhibitions



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I put this to Dr Dyer.

"If you know someone who has a claim to the moral high ground I'd like to meet him," he said.

"Nelson Mandela," I ventured.

"Alright, there's one, name a second," he challenged me.

"Desmond Tutu," I suggested knowing, I still had the Dalai Lama up my sleeve.

"Oh damn," said Dr Dyer. "But you know nobody comes to this with clean hands and if you wait until you have perfect people to do it you're not going to get it done are you?"

Meanwhile a Downing Street spokesman responded simply: "We believe the invasion of Iraq was lawful, and we believe that the UN confirmed with resolution 1723 that the presence of the multi-national force remains legal."

And never the twain shall meet.

**Bernamea.com
Malaysian National News Agency**

**Galvanise The Second Superpower, Dr M Tells The World
General
February 07, 2007 18:54 PM**



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad receiving the Petition of War Crimes Victims handed by Ali Shalah (right) before the closing of the War Criminal Conference And Exhibition at the Putra World Trade Centre. Pix: Rushdan Abdul Manan

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 7 (Bernama) -- Terming the voice of the people of the world as the second superpower, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today it is imperative for the people of the world to tell trigger-happy nations that war is not an option to settle disputes.



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"We have to use this second superpower and mobilise the people of the world to sow the seeds of new ideas that going to war with any country is illegal and a crime.

"The public opinion is already turning against leaders of countries who go to war at the slightest reason. We can only mobilise the second superpower through networking. We need to link up and sustain the network built.

"We need a strong network, especially in the US and Britain," he said in his closing remarks at the War Crimes Conference.

The conference, organised by the Perdana Global Peace Foundation headed by Dr Mahathir, also set up a pro tem Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission and the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal during its three-day deliberations at the Putra World Trade Centre.

He said the world's second "superpower" could bring down any government and even change leaders.

The former prime minister said this was proven after the US invaded Vietnam when the superpower had to withdraw due to public pressure not only in the US but also throughout the world.

"When the American public saw US soldiers returning in body bags, things started to change. They held protests...students from universities came out in droves and this forced the US administration at that time to decide that the war in Vietnam was a foregone conclusion and they pulled back," said the vocal fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia.

He "congratulated" the resistance put up by the Iraqis as their opposition proved that "it is not so easy to walk into a country and take over".

"If the US thought it could use Iraq as a base in the Middle East, then the resistance has proven how wrong the US was. The resistance in Iraq should have a plan, they should strategise to ensure the US pays a high price for its adventure in Iraq but to do this, unfortunately US soldiers will have to be killed...this will change the minds of the Americans," he said. He said it was now clear that the US invasion of Iraq apart from other things was to contain the oil supply to China, which was expected to become a major world power in the next 20 years.

He said the US also wanted to acquire wealth through occupation but this method would not work as it required death of people.

"We are prepared to have wars and legalise them if (US President George W.) Bush is willing to lead his army and stand in the frontline. Having the General sitting some 5,000 miles away from the war zone is not a very good thing," said Dr Mahathir, in a sarcasm-filled winding-up speech.

He said part of the world now realised that the war against terrorism championed by the US was a mere trick, and that the crash at the New York's World Trade Centre was an excuse to invade Iraq and increase its presence in the Middle East.

"I saw it on TV...when Bush was informed of the crash, the way he reacted was like he was expecting the news. Within three hours after the disaster, they pointed their fingers at Osama bin Laden. If they knew Osama was such a huge threat, why didn't they act before the so-called terrorist attack?" added Dr Mahathir.

He said one of the main reasons for the US invasion of Iraq was because it wanted to control China, realising that China could not be broken through military might or even economic sanctions.

"So they have to control the oil supplied to China. Some 60 per cent of oil supplied to China come from the Middle East. Only 2 per cent of oil used by China is from the US.

"Containing China is the American dream," added Dr Mahathir to a thunderous applause from more than 1,000 people attending the three-day conference. -- BERNAMA



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Nine 'charges' against Bush, Blair and Howard 08 February, 2007

Kuala Lumpur: The Kuala Lumpur War Crime Commission chaired by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad Wednesday heard nine charges against US President George Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair as well as Australian Prime Minister John Howard for the sufferings of the people in Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine.

The charges against the US and its allies were presented by legal counsel on behalf of the war crimes victims, Barrister (Inner Temple) & Advocate & Solicitor High Court of Malaya, Matthias Chang before Dr Mahathir and the other five commission members at the last day of the three-day war crimes conference organised by Perdana Global Peace Conference.

Chang said Bush, Blair and Howard through a deliberate plan of deception, falsehood, forgery and outright lies misled their respective Congress and Parliament to wage war against Iraq which was a "crime against peace."

The trio were also being charged for embarking a systematic campaign to destroy Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, economically and militarily, he said.

He said the third charge against them was for ordering the destruction of vital facilities essential to civilian lives in Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine while the fourth one for the bombing of schools, hospitals, mosques, churches, residential areas, historical sites and conveniently labelling the destruction as "collateral damage".

The three leaders were also charged with allowing the use of weapons of mass destruction that inflicted indiscriminate death and suffering against civilian targets, such as cluster bomb, napalm bomb, phosphorous bomb, and depleted uranium ammunition, said Chang.

The sixth charge said that Bush, Blair and Howard have fraudulently manipulated the United Nations (UN) and the security council as well as corrupting its members to commit crimes against peace and war times, he said.

Through the aforesaid conduct, Chang said the three had destroyed the environment of Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine.

The eight charges were that Bush, Blair and Howard ordered and condoned the violation of human rights, specifically the civilians in Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba as well as other prisons known and unknown in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and anywhere else in the world.

The last charge spelled out that Bush, Blair and Howard systematically controlled and manipulated directed and misinformed the mass media so as to incite war to achieve their military objectives in Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine.

Apart from hearing the charges against the three leaders, the commission also heard presentation from several war crimes victim including, Najwa J.A. Jalamna, 16, from Jenin, Palestine, Abbas Abid, a survivor of the Fallujah Massacre in Iraq, Editor-in-Chief Al-Intiqad & Al-Manar TV (Lebanon), Ibrahim Mousawi as well as Palestinian Peace Activity Dr Walid Salah Al-Khatib.

Dr Mahathir said the commission was to respond to several petition of war crime victims and investigate into their complaints.

"We appreciate there are other tribunals but there are so many complaints, the other tribunals perhaps are not being able to hear the complaint. We feel there is a need for the setting up this tribunal (Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal) and give an opportunity for those war crimes victims to voice out their complaints and to seek redress," he said.

The commission would investigate complaints of war crimes and thereafter to submit and report to the tribunal that would be set up, which are still at a protem stage.



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**Dr M heads panel to probe four leaders
08 Feb 2007**

KUALA LUMPUR: A Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission formed on the final day of the Global Peace Organisation Conference will start investigating a series of charges made against four world leaders.

The commission, headed by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will check the allegations by petitioners who were war victims and survivors of war crimes from countries such as Iraq and Palestine.

If the commission manages to establish a prima facie case, United States president George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Australian Prime Minister John Howard and former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon would have to face the consequences of being branded as war criminals.

Some of the charges presented by the legal counsel Matthias Chang claim that Bush, Blair and Howard misled their respective Congress and Parliament to wage war against Iraq, and that Bush and Blair had embarked on a campaign to destroy Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine's economy and military.

Other charges said the leaders had manipulated the United Nations Security Council.

Speaking at a Press conference yesterday, Dr Mahathir said once a case was established, the results would be sent to the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal, which was being set up by a pro-tem committee.

The pro-tem committee includes Datuk Abdul Kadir Sulaiman, a former Malaysian Federal Court judge and prominent legal figures like Tunku Datuk Dr Sofiah Jewa, Datuk Mohd Saari Yusoff and Professor Shad Faruqi.

The War Crimes Commission studying the case comprised Datuk Dr Yaacob Hussain Merican, Zainur Zakaria, Musa Ismail, Professor Dr Mohd Akram Shair Mohamed and Professor Gurdial Singh Nijar.

Asked on what would be among the actions to be taken against the leaders if they were found guilty, Dr Mahathir said:

"We would like to hang them like Saddam Hussein but since we are not going to see that happen, we will find other ways of making their lives miserable."

Earlier, the Global Peace Organisation committee concluded its three-day "Expose War Crimes, Criminalise War" Conference at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Malaysia distances itself from Mahathir

8th February 2007, 17:52 WST

Malaysia's government sought to distance itself from a war tribunal set up by former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad to try world leaders, including John Howard and George W Bush, for alleged war crimes.

Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said Mahathir's move was an "independent effort" and would not hurt Malaysia's ties with the countries whose leaders were accused of committing crimes against humanity.



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Mahathir, who remains a respected figure in the Islamic world after his retirement in October 2003 after 22 years in power, launched the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal on Wednesday. The tribunal doesn't have the legal authority of an international organisation and cannot impose penalties.

It plans to hold trials based on complaints by Iraqis and Palestinians against leaders including Howard, Bush, Britain's Tony Blair and Israel's ex-prime minister Ariel Sharon.

Syed Hamid said he doesn't think Mahathir's actions will hurt Malaysia's relations with the United States and the other countries.

"Even in the (United) States, there are groups who don't agree with the war," he told reporters. "If you are mature enough in international relations, we must allow for existence of differing views."

He said the war tribunal was a reflection of democracy in Malaysia.

Mahathir "has taken that approach. I will not say the government supports or objects to it," he said.

"It is an independent tribunal. Let them take the initiative which is within their rights as citizens of Malaysia ... it is nice to see freedom being exercised."

The tribunal received its first petition on Wednesday, signed by 10 people who said they were victims of crimes against humanity in Iraq and the Palestinian territories.

Most members of the nine-person tribunal are Malaysian legal experts and former judges, but it plans to add more foreign members.

AP

Published: 08/02/2007 12:00 AM (UAE)



Mahathir Mohamad tells insurgents to make US pay high price for Iraq occupation.



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Mahathir backs militants

AP

Kuala Lumpur: Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad urged Iraqi insurgents yesterday to make the United States "pay a very high price" for its occupation of Iraq.

In his most provocative public remarks on the Iraq war yet, Mahathir said he wanted to "congratulate the Iraqi resistance" for successfully turning public opinion against US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"Make sure that the Americans will pay a very high price for their adventure," Mahathir said at an international anti-war conference in Kuala Lumpur.

"Unfortunately, you may have to kill a lot of Americans. When the coffins go back, when the body bags are carried back to America, it will help the Americans to change their minds," Mahathir said to loud applause from 1,500 activists.

Strong critic

Mahathir, long known for his strident criticism of Western countries, said American soldiers will go to Iraq "and many of them are going to die. They are going to go back in their coffins.

"If President Bush is willing to lead his army, but from the front, then by all means let's all go to war," he said. "But since he's not going to do that, I think we should strive with all our might to spread the new faith, the new belief that war is not an option, war is not a way of settling any dispute."

War crimes tribunal

Mahathir spoke after launching a tribunal that plans to hold trials based on complaints by Iraqis and Palestinians against world leaders including Bush, Blair, Australian Prime Minister John Howard and Israeli ex-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

The Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal, which opened with a preliminary meeting, does not have the legal authority of an international organisation and cannot impose penalties, but its main aim is to condemn leaders in history books, Mahathir said.

Your comments



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I really appreciate the ex-Super-Leader. He is the real president and great man in the history. He is the legend for the next Generation.

Aman

Mumbai, India

Mr Mahatir is a courageous Muslim leader, wish we in Pakistan had someone like him.

Saj

Lahore, Pakistan

He is probably the only man in the world with guts and know the meaning of speech freedom.

Deen

Singapore, Singapore

I have never seen person like Mahatir Mohammed who always speaks the truth about the superpower conspiracy without any fear of retaliation. He is the only Muslim leader who can stand against the Americans and the Israelis.

Mohammed

Hyderabad, India

KL War Crime Commission Hears Nine Charges Against Bush, Blair & Howard



PETITION... Editor-in-Chief Al-Intiqad & Al Manar TV of Lebanon, Ibrahim Mousawi stressing his point during the 7th session of the War Criminal Conference and Exhibition at the Putra World Trade Centre. Pix: Rushdan Abdul Manan

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 7 (Bernama) -- The Kuala Lumpur War Crime Commission chaired by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad heard nine charges against US President George Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair as well as Australian Prime Minister John Howard for the sufferings of the people in Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine.

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Bush and Blair “fascist war criminals”?

2/8/2007 6:01:00 AM GMT

By: Ahmed Abdullah

More than a month ago, the former Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, was hanged for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity, followed by two of his aides, who were also sentenced to death by the same U.S.-led tribunal.

The farcical trial didn't give Saddam or his aides the chance to defend themselves. Nor did it delve deep into those crimes, for this would have implicated some Western leaders.

But yesterday, more than 3000 peace activists, local dignitaries, including a number of Malaysia's top judges, and foreign delegates, gathered in Kuala Lumpur to attend the opening of the War Crimes exhibit, which was staged parallel to a conference on war crimes entitled Expose War Crimes, Criminalise War that will also include a trial for UK Prime Minister Tony Blair and U.S. President George Bush for war crimes and present documentary evidence of U.S. and Britain's crimes against humanity over the decades, from Hiroshima to Iraq.

The conference, where Blair and Bush were branded "fascist war criminals", is hosted by the former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed, who inaugurated the event with a call for the leaders to be tried by an unofficial tribunal for war crimes in Iraq, and will tour other Malaysian cities under the auspices of the Malaysian Ministry of Tourism.

It is no surprise that the event, which included gruesome evidence of those leaders' crimes against humanity, including appalling pictures depicting wounded children, deformed babies and innocent men who were subject to torture in Iraqi prisons, received scanty coverage from the Western media.

"We shouldn't hang Blair if the tribunal finds him guilty," said Mahathir, who launched recently a campaign aimed at uncovering human rights abuses and hypocrisy of U.S.-led forces said to be on a mission to install "democracy" in the Middle East in general and Iraq in particular.

"But he should always carry the label 'War Criminal, Killer of Children, Liar'," said Mahathir during his hour-long speech as tape-recorded screams of men being tortured and babies who lost their parents in the U.S.,UK-led war on Iraq echoed around the War Crimes Exhibition.

"And so should Bush and the pocket Bush of the Bushland of Australia," he said, referring to Prime



(Reuters Photo) Mahathir Mohamad delivers his keynote address during Kuala Lumpur conference



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Minister John Howard, a staunch U.S. war ally.

"They're giving an open mind to people who know what kind of war crime that the U.S. do to our communities in the world," was one of the attendees' remarks, an assessment probably shared by most of those who attended the event.

"It is the converted preaching to the converted," said Gwynne Dyer, a journalist and Oscar-nominated documentary maker; among the figures who gave out speeches at the conference, that also included former U.S. politician Cynthia McKinney, who was among the very first people to speak out against the American President's illegal invasion of Iraq, and Hans von Sponeck, former UN humanitarian coordinator for Iraq.

"But I think this [conference] has potential," Dyer said, adding:

"It actually has a goal beyond cheering people up and allowing them to vent."

Vietnam War and My Lai massacre were also depicted in the exhibit to further remind people of American crimes.

The exhibit also didn't ignore Israeli crimes in Palestine and Lebanon, where over 1,400 civilians died as a result of Israel's indiscriminate bombardment during last summer's war against Hezbollah resistance movement.

The Western media's scant coverage of such an important event is part of its persistence to not deliver the full image to the Americans and people of the West. Iraq war coverage by the American media has long been biased in favor of the President and his war allies.

http://www.aljazeera.com/me.asp?service_ID=13131

Wednesday February 7, 7:34 PM

LEAD: Mahathir voices support for Iraqi insurgency

(Kyodo) _ (EDS: UPDATING WITH MORE COMMENTS FROM MAHATHIR, RECASTING)

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Wednesday said he supports the deadly insurgency in Iraq and urged insurgents to kill more U.S. soldiers.

"Carry on. Plan your resistance. Make sure that the Americans will pay a very high price for their adventure," he told an anti-war conference organized by the Perdana Global Peace Organization that he founded after retiring in 2003.

"It will help the Americans to change their minds. Hopefully they will understand no one should hegemonize this world," said Mahathir, who is known for his outspoken, anti-Western rhetoric.



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Mahathir also accused Washington of masterminding the sectarian violence between Iraqi Shiites and Sunnis that has claimed thousands of lives under a "divide-and-rule" policy to "subjugate" the Iraqis.

Also Wednesday, a tribunal initiated by Mahathir was launched to hear complaints of abuse and torture by victims of the war in Iraq and Israel's incursions into the Palestinian territories.

So far 10 people have come forward claiming to have been abused by U.S. soldiers in Iraq and the Israeli military in the Palestinian territories.

The tribunal, presently made up of nine former judges and legal experts, carries no legal weight.

The membership of the tribunal is now largely Malaysian. Among the non-Malaysian members is Francis Boyle, a professor of law at the University of Illinois and a former legal adviser to the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

Mahathir said the panel would be enlarged "so that the tribunal will be properly represented by eminent jurists from all corners of the globe."

Mahathir chairs a six-member commission that will verify testimony given by the victims to decide if they merit a hearing by the tribunal.

"This is a terrible time that we are living in when powerful, responsible people are quite willing to sanction actions that are totally inhumane," he said.

"I hope we will be able to achieve something in the way of assuaging the pain that has been suffered by so many people in Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan and elsewhere."

Both the commission and tribunal met for the first time Wednesday on the sideline of the conference.

Similar attempts to establish an unofficial war crimes tribunal were made in Turkey in 2005. One of the recommendations from the previous tribunal was for U.S. President George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and other leaders in the coalition to be held responsible for war crimes.

Mahathir, who ruled Malaysia for 22 years before retiring in 2003, has been a staunch critic of the Iraq war and Israeli incursions into the Palestinian territories.

<http://asia.news.yahoo.com/070207/kyodo/d8n4rj080.html>



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Tuesday February 6, 2007

Former Abu Ghraib prisoner seeks international support for Iraqi rights

KUALA LUMPUR: An Iraqi man allegedly abused by American troops at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison urged the international community on Tuesday to help stop what he called massive human rights violations by the U.S. in Iraq.

Ali Shalal Qaissi told more than 1,000 peace activists at an international anti-war meeting in Malaysia that he suffered "brutal methods of torture" including electric shocks in the prison outside Baghdad between October 2003 and March 2004.

"Believe me, what I told you is a drop in the ocean (compared to) what is happening in Iraq," Qaissi said, urging the activists to take "the first step to defend the Iraqi people."

Photographs taken by guards showing mistreatment of Abu Ghraib prisoners sparked worldwide outrage when they became public in 2004.

Eleven enlisted soldiers have since been convicted of crimes at Abu Ghraib, and a number of officers have been reprimanded.

Qaissi, speaking through an interpreter, received a standing ovation after describing being stripped of clothes for two weeks, beaten, starved and shocked with wires.

"I felt as if my eyes were being forced out," Qaissi said of the electrical shocks.

"I feel very sad that I have to remember and relive this horrible experience again and again."

Qaissi, 45, a former lecturer, said he was freed after being told that his arrest had been a mistake.

He has since founded the Association of Victims of American Occupation Prisons, based in Jordan.

He was among delegates speaking at a three-day conference aimed at criminalising war, which was organized by former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

On Wednesday, the conference's final day, delegates are to launch a war tribunal for world leaders, including U.S. President George W. Bush.

The tribunal would not have any legal authority and cannot impose penalties, but Mahathir has said its aim would be to condemn them in history books. - AP

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Tuesday February 6, 2007

No place for war criminals

Stories by SHAHANAAZ HABIB and LISA GOH

KUALA LUMPUR: People should use their power and make leaders found guilty by the War Crimes Tribunal “unwelcome wherever they go”, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

“They (the war criminals) should be literally hounded,” the former prime minister said in his keynote address at the three-day Expose War Crimes – Criminalise War Conference here yesterday.

“They should have their full frontal and profile pictures put up everywhere as war criminals. And historians should always refer to them as war criminals in history books.”

He said all leaders, especially those from powerful nations, wanted to go down in history as great men – identified with great deeds and not as war criminals.

“History should remember (British Prime Minister Tony) Blair and (US President George W.) Bush as the Killers of Children



Tough stand: Participants and guests listening to Dr Mahathir speaking at the conference in Kuala Lumpur.

or as the Lying Prime Minister and President. What Blair and Bush have done is worse than what Saddam (Hussein) had done,” he added.

He proposed the setting up of a permanent tribunal to criminalise war, which would be empowered by victims of aggression and right-minded people, to hear charges levelled at war-mongers, leaders and governments of aggressor nations to determine their innocence or guilt.

He said it should be made up of international jurists of repute with no personal or national interest in matters referred to them so that their judgments would be based on evidence and not sentiment.

Admitting that the tribunal might not have the power to enforce its decisions because the people on trial might be too powerful, he said: “We should find ways and forms of punishments that are within our capacity.

“The jurists should have no qualms about the unorthodox laws they should draft or the kind of punishment they should prescribe.”

Wars, Dr Mahathir pointed out, are nothing more than “legitimised terror.”

“Wars are crimes against humanity. The terror caused by powerful countries with their rockets, missiles and bombs cannot be said to be less than that caused by a suicide bomber. Powerful countries are much more terrorists than the suicide bombers,” he said.



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Dr Mahathir noted that while the suicide pilots in the Sept 11, 2001, terror attack on the United States killed 3,000 people, 600,000 Afghans and Iraqis have been killed and continue to be killed by their “powerful oppressors” (the West).

“Sending in more troops simply creates more targets,” he added.

Unless war is made illegal, he said, the whole world would have to endure an endless state of war between the powerful and the weak.

Later, during a question-and-answer session, Dr Mahathir said he had doubts that the collapse of the World Trade Centre in New York was actually caused by terrorists crashing planes into the towers.

He said the buildings had collapsed in an orderly manner with such military precision that it all seemed well planned.

“I can believe that they (the United States) would kill 3,000 of their own to have an excuse to kill 650,000 Iraqis. These are the kind of people we are dealing with. Please don't think this is fiction.”

US waging war for oil, says don

Tuesday February 6, 2007

KUALA LUMPUR: The United States would have demonised Buddhists if the land they inhabited had oil, a professor of economics said.

Ottawa University's Prof Michael Chossudovsky said the war on Iraq was actually a war of conquest to confiscate and control oil reserves.

He added that three-quarters of the oil reserves were in Muslim lands and only 4% was in Western countries, with the United States having 2%.

“If oil had been found in the lands inhabited by Buddhists, the United States would have demonised them to get control of the resource. The war on terror is a fabrication,” he said yesterday at the *Expose War Crimes – Criminalise War* conference organised by Perdana Global Peace Organisation.





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Gory scene: Visitors (from left) Norsheila Latif, Nurhidayah Md Nor, Siti Akmalia Mohd Zuraimi and Noorhuda Mokhsin viewing an exhibit at the Guantanamo Bay section of an exhibition held in conjunction with the conference at the PWTC in Kuala Lumpur.

He said plans to extend the war to Iran would cause the whole region to flare up, and that the objective to redraw the map of the Middle East was for the conquest of oil reserves.

Prof Chossudovsky said there had been more than 10 million casualties in US-sponsored wars all over the world.

He said some were covert, such as in Africa, where they financed both sides to fight each other in civil wars in order to take over the resources of the country later.

Another speaker, Cynthia McKinney, a former representative to the US House of Representatives, said impeaching US President George W. Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice was America's roadmap back to dignity.

She noted that although the Democrats had taken over Congress, they had made it clear that they did not have plans to impeach the Republican president and have taken that out of the table.

Monday February 5, 2007

Mahathir criticises Bush, Blair

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Malaysian leader Mahathir Mohamad accused George W. Bush and Tony Blair of being more evil and bigger murderers than Saddam Hussein and the Sept. 11 attackers.

In some of his most provocative swipes at the U.S. and British leaders, Mahathir said Monday that their war in Iraq had caused worse terror than al-Qaida's suicide bombers around the world.

"History should remember Blair and Bush as the killers of children, or as the lying prime minister and president," said Mahathir.

"What Blair and Bush have done is worse than what Saddam had done," Mahathir, 81, said in a speech to inaugurate a three-day conference organized by his nongovernment organization, Perdana, and aimed at criminalizing war.

On Wednesday, conference delegates are expected to formally launch a war tribunal that would hold "trials" for world leaders, including Bush and Blair, against whom common citizens file complaints.

The tribunal will not have the legal authority of any international organization and will not be able to impose penalties, but Mahathir said its aim is to condemn the accused in history books.

"We should not hang Blair if the tribunal finds him guilty, but he should always carry the label 'War Criminal, Killer of Children, Liar,'" Mahathir said.



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"And so should Bush and the pocket Bush of the Bushland of Australia," he said, referring to Australia's Prime Minister John Howard, a staunch ally in Washington's campaign against terrorism.

Seventeen people - nine from Iraq, five from the Palestinian territories and three from Lebanon - have arrived for the peace conference, where they will submit oral or written complaints to the so-called Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission.

After investigations, the commission will decide whether the leaders accused in the complaints should stand trial, albeit in absentia, at the war tribunal.

Mahathir said terrorist attacks, such as those of Sept. 11, 2001, are weak people's retaliation against oppression by powerful countries.

Terrorism cannot be condoned, but neither can the "cruel retaliation by powerful countries," he said.

The Sept. 11 attackers may have killed about 3,000 people, but about 600,000 people have been killed during the U.S.-led war in Iraq and Afghanistan, he said.

"The terror caused (by powerful countries) is actually greater, and the powerful countries are much more terrorists than the suicide bombers," he said. - AP

Thursday February 1, 2007

Tribunal to hear torture victims

By MERGAWATI ZULFAKAR

PUTRAJAYA: Some world leaders may go down in history as war criminals once they are found "guilty" by a tribunal initiated by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's Perdana Global Peace Organisation.

Several retired judges and practising lawyers have agreed to sit in the tribunal to hear complaints by victims who have been tortured in Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon.

Among the judges are former Chief Judge of Malaya Tan Sri Siti Norma Yaakob, former Federal Court judge Datuk Abdul Kadir Sulaiman and law lecturer Prof Shad Faruqi.

Dr Mahathir announced the formation of the tribunal in conjunction with the organisation's conference on *Expose War Crimes: Criminalise War* next week.

He said that although the tribunal had no legal authority, those accused and found guilty would be labelled as war criminals, ideally in history books.

"The one punishment that leaders are afraid of is to go down in history with a certain label," he told a press conference here yesterday.

"In history books they should be labelled as war criminals. This is the kind of punishment we can mete out to them. We can't arrest, detain or punish them like the way they hanged Saddam Hussein."



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Some 17 people – nine from Iraq, five from Palestine and three from Lebanon – will submit statutory declarations or give oral evidence to a war crimes commission headed by Dr Mahathir.

The commission will decide whether there is a *prima facie* case to be brought to the tribunal.

“The commission will investigate the veracity of the complaints, and when the commission views that there is a *prima facie* case it will ask for the tribunal to sit,” he added.

On another issue, Dr Mahathir said the Government should buy a bigger jet for VIP official use.

Dr Mahathir, who exhibited his usual sarcasm, said the leasing of the Airbus from Penerbangan Malaysia Bhd (PMB) was a “necessity.”

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had said that the Government was leasing an Airbus from PMB as it was cheaper than buying one.

He had also denied that the aircraft was only meant for use by the Prime Minister as it would also be used by the King.

On the defamation suit against two bloggers by the NSTP, Dr Mahathir said bloggers should not break the law.

“If you do something against the law, the law will take its course. I never break the law. This is a country that is administered according to the rule of law; everybody must respect the law.”

Wednesday January 31, 2007

Mahathir to launch war crimes tribunal

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Wednesday he is forming a tribunal to try heads of governments for alleged war crimes, including U.S. President George W. Bush.

The tribunal, to be formally launched at a peace conference Mahathir is hosting Feb. 7, will not have the legal authority of any international organization and will not be able to impose penalties - but Mahathir said its aim is to condemn the accused in the history books.

"The accused may disregard" the tribunal, Mahathir said at a news conference.

"There will be (other) people who will take it seriously, and historians will attach an epithet that they will not like. They will go down in history as war criminals."

Seventeen people - nine from Iraq, five from the Palestinian territories and three from Lebanon - have arrived for the peace conference in Kuala Lumpur, where they will submit oral or written complaints to the 'Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission'.

The commission, made up of Mahathir and five Malaysian lawyers, will investigate the complaints and decide whether they merit being tried by the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal, which is also being set up by Mahathir and comprises law specialists and former judges.



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Mahathir said the date for the tribunal's first hearing will depend on how long the commission takes to recommend that a case be heard.

"If the complaint is against a head of government, someone powerful, we will hold a trial in absentia," Mahathir said.

He did not say if he expects other accused people to attend.

He said the accused would "have ample opportunities to rebut the allegations through their embassies."

"We can't arrest government leaders. We can't hang them like they hanged Saddam (Hussein)," Mahathir said.

Eight Malaysian law specialists and former judges have agreed to sit on the tribunal, and Mahathir's nongovernment Perdana Global Peace Organization hopes to add international members.

"The crimes that have been committed in Iraq, Palestine, Japan have not been given a hearing. It is time we set up a body which will give these people an opportunity to complain," Mahathir said.

The coming conference will highlight the suffering of people who survived the U.S. World War II nuclear attacks on Japan.

The complainants gathering in Malaysia are alleged victims of torture, rape and abuse by the U.S. and Israeli armies, said a Mahathir aide, Matthias Chang.

They include Ali Shalah, a former Baghdad university lecturer who claims he was severely beaten and electrocuted during six months in Abu Ghraib prison.

"The victims went all over the world. Their cries fell on deaf ears. As a last resort, they asked Mahathir to help them," Chang said.

Mahathir said his initiative is not being backed by any government, including Malaysia's.

"We don't want to make it look like a government effort. This is purely NGO (nongovernment organization) work," he said.

Mahathir, who led Muslim-majority Malaysia for 22 years before retiring in 2003, is well known for critical comments about the West, and is respected in Muslim and developing countries. - AP

Monday January 8, 2007



Dr M to speak at war crimes meet

PETALING JAYA: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will give a keynote address at an international conference-cum-exhibition entitled Expose War



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Crimes: Criminalise War from Feb 5-7 at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The war crimes exhibition will be the first of its kind to be held in a Muslim country and will highlight atrocities committed in Iraq, Bosnia, Palestine, Vietnam and Hiroshima, Japan.

The interactive exhibition will expose visitors to the horrors of the tortures inflicted on those held in the Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo detention centres.

The event will also launch a petition to set up a War Crimes Tribunal, with testimonies from victims of war crimes, expert witnesses and international law experts.

The event is organised by the Perdana Global Peace Organisation. Admission is free.

For enquiries, call: 016-306 8848/03-4041 2920.

George W. Bush and Tony Blair war criminals

Publication time: 7 February 2007, 15:15

More than a month ago, the former Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, was hanged for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity, followed by two of his aides, who were also sentenced to death by the same U.S.-led tribunal.

The farcical trial didn't give Saddam or his aides the chance to defend themselves. Nor did it delve deep into those crimes, for this would have implicated some Western leaders.

But yesterday, more than 3000 peace activists, local dignitaries, including a number of Malaysia's top judges, and foreign delegates, gathered in Kuala Lumpur to attend the opening of the War Crimes exhibit, which was staged parallel to a conference on war crimes entitled Expose War Crimes, Criminalise War that will also include a trial for UK Prime Minister Tony Blair and U.S. President George Bush for war crimes and present documentary evidence of U.S. and Britain's crimes against humanity over the decades, from Hiroshima to Iraq.

The conference, where Blair and Bush were branded "fascist war criminals", is hosted by the former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed, who inaugurated the event with a call for the leaders to be tried by an unofficial tribunal for war crimes in Iraq, and will tour other Malaysian cities under the auspices of the Malaysian Ministry of Tourism.

It is no surprise that the event, which included gruesome evidence of those leaders' crimes against humanity, including appalling pictures depicting wounded children, deformed babies and innocent men who were subject to torture in Iraqi prisons, received scanty coverage from the Western media.

"We shouldn't hang Blair if the tribunal finds him guilty," said Mahathir, who launched recently a campaign aimed at uncovering human rights abuses and hypocrisy of U.S.-led forces said to be on a mission to install "democracy" in the Middle East in general and Iraq in particular.

"But he should always carry the label 'War Criminal, Killer of Children, Liar'," said Mahathir during his hour-long speech as tape-recorded screams of men being tortured and babies who lost their parents in the U.S., UK-led war on Iraq echoed around the War Crimes Exhibition.



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"And so should Bush and the pocket Bush of the Bushland of Australia," he said, referring to Prime Minister John Howard, a staunch U.S. war ally.

"They're giving an open mind to people who know what kind of war crime that the U.S. do to our communities in the world," was one of the attendees' remarks, an assessment probably shared by most of those who attended the event.

"It is the converted preaching to the converted," said Gwynne Dyer, a journalist and Oscar-nominated documentary maker; among the figures who gave out speeches at the conference, that also included former U.S. politician Cynthia McKinney, who was among the very first people to speak out against the American President's illegal invasion of Iraq, and Hans von Sponeck, former UN humanitarian coordinator for Iraq.

"But I think this [conference] has potential," Dyer said, adding:

"It actually has a goal beyond cheering people up and allowing them to vent."

Vietnam War and My Lai massacre were also depicted in the exhibit to further remind people of American crimes.

The exhibit also didn't ignore Israeli crimes in Palestine and Lebanon, where over 1,400 civilians died as a result of Israel's indiscriminate bombardment during last summer's war against Hezbollah resistance movement.

The Western media's scant coverage of such an important event is part of its persistence to not deliver the full image to the Americans and people of the West. Iraq war coverage by the American media has long been biased in favor of the President and his war allies.

By: Ahmed Abdullah

Source: AlJazeera Journal

Bush, Blair, Howard attacked at summit

5th February 2007, 17:17 WST

About 2,000 peace activists applauded as the leaders of the United States, Britain and Australia were branded "fascist war criminals" at a conference in Malaysia.

The gathering featured gruesome exhibits of their alleged crimes.

Outspoken former Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad, who hosted the conference in Kuala Lumpur, won a standing ovation after opening it with a call for the leaders to be tried by an unofficial tribunal for war crimes in Iraq.

"We should not hang Blair if the tribunal finds him guilty, but he should always carry the label 'War Criminal, Killer of Children, Liar'," said Mahathir in an hour-long speech illustrated by pictures of wounded children, deformed babies and tortured men.

"And so should Bush and the pocket Bush of the Bushland of Australia," he said, referring to Prime Minister John Howard, a staunch ally in the US-led war on terror.



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Mahathir, a controversial figure whose own government was accused of human rights abuses bordering on torture, has been leading a campaign to highlight what he calls the human rights abuses and hypocrisy of US-led forces fighting for democracy in the Middle East.

That campaign reached new heights of graphic intensity, with an exhibit of alleged war crimes by American forces and their allies over the decades, from Hiroshima to Iraq.

As Mahathir spoke in the main conference room, packed with students and legions of his supporters, tape-recorded screams of tortured men and orphaned babies echoed around the War Crimes Exhibition, a house of horrors on the floor below.

Visitors to the exhibition start by walking through a mock spray of white phosphorus, a chemical agent that burns flesh, before entering a torture chamber labelled "Torture methods used here were used on prisoners of Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib".

Here, figures of naked men were gagged and strapped upside down to a metal-framed bed. Another was strapped to a chair, his legs and arms bristling with nails driven into his flesh, while another was bombarded with loud, incessant disco music.

"Who would have imagined the cheerful music of Boney M could be used as an instrument of pain and torture?" a label said.

The exhibit also took visitors through the Vietnam War, including the My Lai massacre of civilians by American troops, then along a trail of mock blood through a scene representing the civilian casualties of Israel's offensive in Lebanon last year.

Speakers at the conference include former US politician Cynthia McKinney, a Democrat, who has branded the war in Iraq as illegal, and former UN assistant secretary-general Hans von Sponeck, who took part in a similar attempt to set up an unofficial war crimes tribunal at a conference in Turkey in 2005.

It also features Ali Shalah, billed as the man famously pictured in a hood with electrodes attached to his fingers at Abu Ghraib, a US-run prison in Iraq, though the New York Times recently reported that he was not the man in the photo.

"Anyone who has looked at the (conference) program knows what this is all about," a US embassy official said, declining to add any further comment.

REUTERS

**Bush, Blair bigger murderers than Saddam, al-Qaeda--Mahathir
Malaysian PM wishes Mahathir well**

Sun Feb 4, 11:30 PM ET

Malaysia's prime minister has put aside his bitter row with former leader Mahathir Mohamad to wish him well in his nomination for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, according to reports.



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Bosnian civil society groups have nominated Mahathir for helping the country after its bloody civil war, describing him as the developing world's "most courageous advocate."

Despite an angry war of words that has raged between the pair for the past year, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi reportedly said he would be proud to see Mahathir win the Nobel.

"I will be happy together with all Malaysians," he said according to The Star daily.

Under Mahathir, Malaysia provided economic, political and humanitarian aid for Bosnia while it reeled from the trauma of conflict and ethnic cleansing in the 1992-95 civil war.

When asked to comment on his nomination on Sunday, Mahathir simply laughed and brushed the question aside.

"I don't know about these things. I don't know if I will be asked to accept it or not ... can we have some other more interesting questions?" he told reporters. The winner will be announced in October.

Mahathir, 81, who stepped down in 2003, has seized on the issue of conflict in the Middle East during his retirement.

On Monday he launched a conference on exposing war crimes, and last week he unveiled plans for an unofficial war crimes tribunal to focus on victims of abuse in Iraq, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories.

Dr M: M'sian govt supports war crimes conference

05 February, 2007

Kuala Lumpur: The Malaysian government is supportive of the initiative taken by the Perdana Global Peace Organisation, headed by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, to organise the three-day War Crimes Conference and Exhibition, which starts here Monday.

"The Malaysian government is supporting. One of the Ministries has donated a considerable sum of money for this conference and I believe that the Prime Minister's Department too has contributed...I don't know about other governments, only about the Malaysian government," the former Prime Minister revealed at a press conference here, Sunday.

He said the conference this time around would emphasise on war crimes, starting with an informal discussion among invited participants on the subject today at the Legend Hotel.

He said participants to the conference would see a good cross-section of people from all over the world including journalists, victims of torture, scientists and various other interested parties.

"We hope that this conference, which is the third in its series of conferences on criminalising war in Malaysia, would one day be held in other countries. We hope that after this conference we would be able to do something towards criminalising war," Dr Mahathir said.



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He said the conference would also set up a commission and a tribunal to try war criminals brought to its attention.

"But that is only one of the things that we wish to do. We will all go back and try to explain the purpose of our conference and try to work among our own people in different countries.

"We have formed a network of people who are interested in criminalising war and they will do their work in their own place in their own circle and we do hope that with the help of the media, this idea that war is a crime, that war is not an option in the solution of feuds between nations would spread among the peoples of the world and that one day we will be able to have governments declare that war is illegal and that no nation should go to war," he said.

Dr Mahathir hoped that the conference would be given its due publicity because "we are trying to convert the thinking of people and we know the media plays a huge role in spreading ideas and perceptions which will affect the objective that we are striving for, and the objective remains criminalising war."

He said participants to the conference would be those from war ravaged nations, Canada, United States of America, Japan and many other nations of the world.

To a question on the proposed commission and tribunal, the former Prime Minister said setting up such a mechanism would not undermine the International Criminal Court (ICC).

"They are doing their work but there are so many crimes being committed, some are not given the attention they deserve. The concentration is on selected crimes...not much on Iraq or Palestine," he added.

Dr Mahathir said those to be tried at the commission and tribunal would be based on the accusations levelled at them, with victims being asked to provide a statutory declaration containing details of the alleged crime.

"After that the commission will study to find out whether there is substance to the allegation. It is a legal process done in a proper way. We are not going to have some slipshod kangaroo court. We are going to have people who have been judges on the tribunal and even members of the commission would be those familiar with the process of law.

"We are going to do it very, very properly. We may not get the accused to come to the court but trials in absentia have been done before. We think this court will make real, fair decision," he said.

On another note, the former Prime Minister refused to be drawn into the nomination by four non-governmental organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina to nominate him for this year's Nobel Peace Prize 2007.

Nominations to the Norwegian Nobel Committee closed Feb 1 and this year's list includes former US vice-president Al Gore, Finnish peace broker Martti Ahtisaari and Chinese dissident Rebiya Kadeer.

"I don't know...I don't know. I think the most important thing is the attempt we are trying to make which is to criminalise war," he said.

Asked if he would accept the nomination, Dr Mahathir in his usual sarcasm and wit replied: "I don't know if I have to accept or not but can we have some other more interesting questions".- Bernama



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Monday February 5, 1:21 PM

**Malaysia's Mahathir slams Bush,
Blair as killers worse than Saddam**



(Kyodo) _ History should remember U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair as war criminals, "killers of children" and liars worse than former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Monday.

Speaking at an antiwar conference organized by the Perdana Global Peace Organization Mahathir founded, he said the war against terror has killed far more people than the destruction wrought by the terrorists who attacked the New York World Trade Center in 2001.

"For the suicide pilots killing 3,000 people, 600,000 Afghans and Iraqis have been killed and will continue to be killed. I do

not think we should sanction terror attacks, but neither can we sanction the cruel retaliation by powerful countries and their proxies against puny attacks by their victims," he told the conference.

Mahathir said Bush and Blair had sent humanity into the "Dark Ages" with their disregard for international human rights laws, their ill-treatment of prisoners of war and the use of torture.

Mahathir recently established a tribunal made up of former judges and legal experts to hear victims' stories of abuses and torture in conflict zones such as Iraq, Lebanon and the Palestinian territory.

Several victims are expected to give testimony to a commission chaired by Mahathir on Wednesday.

The commission will verify if the testimony merits a hearing by the tribunal.

The tribunal's judgment carries no legal weight, but Mahathir said that does not matter.

"Bush and Blair are now totally reviled and condemned by the world and by their own people. To a certain extent, they have been tried and sentenced by their own people and media. It was a trial in absentia," he said. "History will also judge them."

"They should be accorded the names they deserve for the evil deeds they have committed...What is Blair if not the co-murderer of 500,000 children and the liar who told the British that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction which could be launched against Britain within 45 minutes," he said.



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"History should remember Blair and Bush as the killers of children or as the lying prime minister and president. What Blair and Bush have done is worse than what Saddam had done. We should not hang Blair if the tribunal finds him guilty, but he should always carry the label 'War Criminal, Killer of Children, Liar.' And so should Bush and the 'pocket Bush' of the bushlands of Australia," he added.

The "pocket Bush" refers to Australian Prime Minister John Howard, a staunch ally of Bush who sent troops to Iraq.

Mahathir also blasted the United States and other nuclear-weapon states for being hypocrites asking other countries not to develop nuclear weapons.

To illustrate the horror of nuclear weapons, Mahathir brought Shoji Sawada, a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bomb, to give a talk Tuesday.

Mahathir said the world must come up with laws to make going to war a criminal act and the use or production of depleted uranium in weapons and other weapons of mass destruction illegal. He called on the people to vote only leaders who are antiwar.

Mahathir, who ruled Malaysia for 22 years with an iron grip before retiring in 2003, has since reinvented himself as a peace activist.

Four nongovernmental organizations from Bosnia-Herzegovina even nominated him for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, according to the Star on Sunday.

The move was reportedly spearheaded by the former President of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina Ejup Ganic who had worked closely with Mahathir when Malaysia provided humanitarian aid during the 1992-95 conflict that ravaged the former Yugoslavia state.

The four organizations are the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology, the Congress of Bosnian Intellectuals, the Serb Civil Council and the Croat National Council. The latter two are Christian organizations.



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Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Dr M for Nobel Peace Prize

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Dr [Mahathir Mohamad](#) has been nominated for this year's [Nobel Peace Prize](#) this year, according to [The Star](#) and other reports earlier this week.

Four non-governmental organisations in [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) nominated the longest-serving Malaysian leader for the coveted prize for his leadership when Malaysia provided economic, political and humanitarian support to a Bosnia-Herzegovina recovering from the trauma of genocide and ethnic cleansing in the 1992-95 [civil war](#). The other candidates include former US Vice-President [Al Gore](#), Finnish peace broker [Martti Ahtisaari](#) and Chinese dissident [Rebiya Kadeer](#).

In a nomination paper signed by Dr Ganic made available to The Star, Dr Mahathir was described as the Third World's "most illustrious contemporary" and its "most courageous advocate." Dr Mahathir, 81, who retired from public office in 2003, launched the Kuala Lumpur Initiative to [Criminalise War](#) in December 2005 and chairs the [Perdana Global Peace Organisation](#).

Will Dr M join the illustrious [club](#) of peace laureates? I think he should although there are other deserving candidates as well.

Dr M is eminently qualified to clinch the Nobel Peace Prize. Apart from what he had done in Bosnia and Herzegovina, he has tried to broker peace in Myanmar and southern Thailand selflessly. He has been pushing the agenda of the Third World in a peaceful manner. He has preached the policy of 'prosper-thy-neighbour' and practised it. He has not been afraid to speak out against blatant injustice such as the unprovoked invasion of Iraq and the execution of its former president [Saddam Hussein](#).

But I somehow think the odds will be against Dr M. Why? There could be many forces that will lobby against him (or lobby for others) simply because he's too outspoken and blunt for the liking of leaders of certain developed nations. For example, the United States, United Kingdom and Australia -- the axis that effectively invaded Iraq -- would probably root for former US Vice-President Al Gore.

The powerful Jewish lobby may work against Dr M as well. Dr M was unfairly accused of being anti-Jew when he spoke about the need for Muslims to emulate Jews in 2003. He was chastised by the Western world and the Jewish community when he said: "The Europeans killed six million Jews out of 12 million. But today the Jews rule this world by proxy. They get others to fight and die for them."

But Dr M was merely advocating Muslims to counter Jews in a more effective manner, without



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resorting to violence. Read his original [speech](#) for proper context. Perhaps, one cannot even criticise anything linked to Jews or Israel. After all, it's amazing that historian [David Irving](#) was jailed for denying the existence of the Holocaust!

True, Dr M is not the most diplomatic person. He has the tendency to exaggerate to make a point. He is sarcastic. He can be combative. He is relentless. Nevertheless, he is a true Asian voice that is sorely needed in a world dominated by Western agenda. Others may say things in a more diplomatic manner but their actions tell a different story.

In the final analysis, I think Dr M has done more good than harm as an elder statesman in this world. And he has done more good as a peace broker than many pseudo doves.

I therefore hope the Norwegian peace committee will be truly impartial in picking the peace broker of 2007.

But Dr M will probably continue to speak his mind, with or without the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mahathir's war crimes tribunal kicks off

February 7, 2007 - 8:14PM

Malaysia's former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad has convened a war crimes tribunal to hear complaints by Iraqis and Palestinians against world leaders including John Howard and George W Bush.

The Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal, which opened with a preliminary meeting, would not have the legal authority of an international organisation and could not impose penalties, but its main aim was to condemn leaders in history books.

Mahathir reiterated that he expected Howard, Bush and Tony Blair to be among the leaders accused of committing crimes against humanity.

The nine-member tribunal is tasked with hearing cases recommended to it by a separate commission chaired by Mahathir.

The commission received its first petition on Wednesday signed by 10 people who called themselves victims of crimes against humanity, mostly in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestinian territories.

"We of the commission look upon these (cases) as a human tragedy, not confined to any particular race, religion, creed or faith," Mahathir told more than 1,000 peace activists.

"This is a terrible time ... when powerful people are quite willing to sanction actions that are totally inhumane," he said. "I hope we will be able to achieve something in ways of assuaging the pain that has been suffered by so many people in Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan and elsewhere."



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It is not clear how long the commission will take to investigate the petition before the tribunal can start working.

"I hope we will be able to achieve something in ways of assuaging the pain that has been suffered by so many people in Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan and elsewhere," Mahathir said.

Most of the tribunal members are Malaysian legal experts and former judges, including chairman Abdul Kadir Sulaiman, a former judge in Malaysia's highest court.

He said the tribunal plans to add more international members "so that we will be properly represented by eminent jurists from all corners of the globe".

The complainants include Ali Shalal Qaissi, an Iraqi who claims he suffered brutal torture including electric shocks while in detention at the Abu Ghraib prison, and Walid Salah, a Palestinian doctor who worked in occupied territories.

"We the victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and such other crimes as contained in the relevant international laws and conventions do hereby petition (the commission) to act on our petition pertaining to the various injustices committed against us," said the memorandum submitted to Mahathir.

Six complainants submitted individual written complaints citing alleged violations, mostly by the US and Israel, in places such as Abu Ghraib, the former Iraqi insurgency stronghold of Fallujah, and Jenin in the West Bank.

"It pains me greatly to see that my country that I so love and cherish ... is nothing but the epitome of destruction perpetrated by the most powerful and supposedly democratic country in the world," said Faiza Alaraji, an Iraqi woman whose Baghdad home was destroyed in the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.



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Ovation for fiery Mahathir's claim West worse than al-Qaeda



Anti-Iraq war campaign ... Mahathir Mohamad looks at a figure of a tortured Abu Ghraib prisoner at a display in Kuala Lumpur.
Photo: AP

February 6, 2007

KUALA LUMPUR: About 2000 activists applauded as the leaders of the United States, Britain and Australia were branded "fascist war criminals" at a conference in Malaysia featuring gruesome exhibits of their alleged crimes.

The former Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad hosted the conference and won applause yesterday for calling for the leaders to be tried by an unofficial tribunal for war crimes in Iraq. He said the war had caused more terror than al-Qaeda.

"We should not hang Blair if the tribunal finds him guilty, but he should always carry the label 'War Criminal, Killer of Children, Liar'," said Dr Mahathir in a speech illustrated by pictures of wounded children, deformed babies and tortured men.

"And so should Bush and the pocket Bush of the Bushland of Australia," he said, referring to the Prime Minister, John Howard.

Dr Mahathir, whose own government was accused of human rights abuses bordering on torture, has been leading a campaign to highlight what he calls the human rights abuses and hypocrisy of US-led forces fighting for democracy in the Middle East.

An exhibition accompanying the conference showed alleged war crimes by the US.



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[Channel NewsAsia, Jan 31.](#)

Mahathir Mohamad today announced the creation of a war crimes tribunal that would focus on victims of abuse in Iraq, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories.

He said the tribunal — and an investigating commission linked to it — was necessary as an alternative to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, which he accused of bias in its selection of cases to cover.

The court does not have government backing and Mahathir admitted he needed money to set it up and that it would be hard to persuade heads of government accused of wrongdoing to attend.

“There will be people who take this thing seriously,” he said. “This is not a show.”

“The one punishment that most leaders are afraid of is to go down in history with a certain label attached to them,” he added at a press conference.

“In history books they should be written down as war criminals and this is the kind of punishment we can make to them.

“We cannot arrest them, we cannot detain them, and we cannot hang them the way they hanged Saddam Hussein.”

Mahathir, who played a high-profile role on the international stage before stepping down in 2003, has seized on the issue of conflict in the Middle East during his retirement.

He did not specify who would be targeted by the tribunal, but said it would focus on abuses in Iraq, Palestinian territories and Lebanon — indicating it was aimed at United States and Israeli military actions.

“We think that it is time we set up a body, a tribunal, which will give an opportunity for these people to bring up their complaints to be heard.”

Mahathir also plans a war crimes commission which would first investigate allegations of abuse. He will sit on its panel along with five Malaysian legal experts, including one from the nation’s hardline Islamic opposition party.

The tribunal would be staffed by former judges and law professors from home and abroad, including a Malaysian former chief justice, he said.

However he conceded it would be difficult to obtain the evidence needed to conduct a thorough trial and that the proposal was short on funding.

“We are asking for donations from interested people,” he said. “It’s not been easy.”

Mahathir will next week host a war crimes conference attended by some 17 Palestinians, Iraqis and Lebanese who allege they are the victims of abuse and torture.



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The new commission will then begin investigating their cases. The tribunal itself, provided its judges have been appointed, would operate as soon as the inquiry panel has referred its first dossier upward.

Mahathir did not specify if the court would have a defence and prosecution, saying the accused would be invited to send their representative, but vowed it would not be like the “kangaroo court” that tried Saddam.
