

California Civil Law Suit against George W. Bush Et Al: DOJ Blocks Submission of Chilcot Report

By Inder Comar

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Region: Middle East & North Africa, USA

Theme: Crimes against Humanity, Law and

<u>Justice</u>

In-depth Report: **IRAQ REPORT**

It is important that those committed to peace and social justice take cognizance of this historic civil law suit directed against a former president of the United States including senior officials of his administration.

An Iragi mother against alleged war criminal George W. Bush, et al.

This is a civil suit. It seeks compensation. While it does not contemplate a criminal indictment, it nonetheless constitutes a far-reaching legal initiative by Californian human rights lawyer Inder Comar (image right).

The political ramifications are far-reaching.

Forget the ICC and the Hague tribunals, which serve the interests of US-NATO. Within the US legal system, e.g in California, the State of New York, Nevada, etc. a civil complaint against GWB et al, Barack Obama and/or a war criminal of your choice (e.g. Hillary Clinton) can be launched at the State and District level.

We call upon Global Research readers to spread the word.

We are also launching a donation drive in support of the Saleh vs. Bush legal suit. To donate

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Global Research will transfer your donation to cover the legal expenses of Sundus Shaker Saleh

Michel Chossudovsky, Global Research Editor, August 2, 2016

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In papers filed Monday, August 1, 2016, the Department of Justice opposed the submission of the <u>Chilcot Report</u> to the United States Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit in an ongoing litigation related to the legality of the Iraq War.

The case, <u>Saleh v. Bush</u>, involves claims by an Iraqi single mother and refugee that six high ranking members of the Bush Administration — George W. Bush, Richard Cheney, Colin Powell, Donald Rumsfeld, Condoleezza Rice, and Paul Wolfowitz — waged a war of aggression against Iraq in 2003, and that they should be personally responsible for the consequences of the unlawful invasion.



Defendants Bush and Rumsfeld shake hands

The plaintiff, Sundus Shaker Saleh, alleges that high ranking Bush-Administration officials intentionally misled the American people by making untrue claims that Iraq was in league with Al Qaida and that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. She also alleges that certain of the Defendants, and in particular, Donald Rumsfeld and Paul Wolfowitz, publically supported an invasion as early as 1998 and used 9/11 as an excuse to push for an invasion of Iraq, regardless of the consequences.

Ms. Saleh is relying on the judgments made by the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal convened in 1946, which found German leaders liable for unlawful wars of aggression against neighboring countries. The Nuremberg judgment held that committing a war of aggression was the "supreme international crime."

The conclusions of the Chilcot Report were submitted to the Ninth Circuit as further evidence of wrongdoing by the six defendants in the case. Ms. Saleh also provided copies of

notes and letters from former Prime Minister Tony Blair to George W. Bush included in the Chilcot Report, in which Mr. Blair appeared to commit to the invasion with Mr. Bush as early as October 2001.

In December 2014, the Northern District of California dismissed the lawsuit on the grounds that the Defendants were immune from further proceedings under the federal Westfall Act(codified in part at 28 U.S.C. §§ 2671, 2674, 2679).

The Westfall Act provides immunity to former government employees from civil lawsuits if a Court determines that the employees were acting with the lawful scope of their employment.

Ms. Saleh is urging the Ninth Circuit to overturn the finding of immunity made by the District Court and to permit her lawsuit to proceed before the District Court.



OPPOSITION TO APPELLANT'S MOTION FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE

Plaintiff requests that this Court take judicial notice of excerpts from the Report of the Iraq Inquiry, Report of a Committee of Privy Counsellors (July 6, 2016) (the Chilcot Report). She asserts that these excerpts support her "allegation that Defendant-Appellees' invasion of Iraq was illegal under international law" and her claim that "Defendant-Appellees' intended to invade Iraq at least as early as July 2002 and 'fix' intelligence around its invasion." Mot. for Judicial Notice at 2. Because plaintiff seeks judicial notice of facts that are not beyond reasonable dispute and that are irrelevant to the issues on appeal, her motion should be denied.

"Judicial notice may be taken of a fact 'not subject to reasonable dispute in that

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