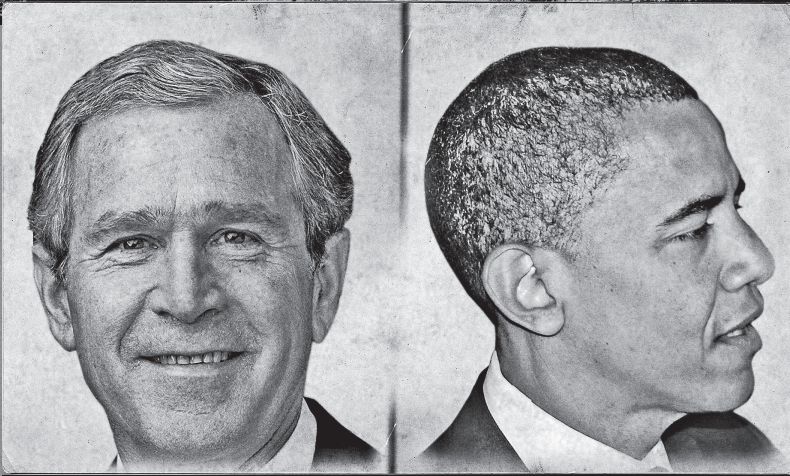


# CRIMES ARE CRIMES NO MATTER WHO DOES THEM

On the ninth anniversary of America's longest war, the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq remain bloody, employing more contractors, while drones rain death upon Pakistan.

In the months since this statement was written, U.S. courts have ruled that innocents who have been tortured may not sue, while the Obama administration defends those who directed that torture be used.

When leaking war crimes is criminalized, remaining silent is a crime.



**CRIMES UNDER BUSH ARE CRIMES UNDER OBAMA AND MUST BE RESISTED BY ANYONE WHO CLAIMS A SHRED OF CONSCIENCE**

It has become common knowledge that Barack Obama has ordered the **assassination of an American citizen**, Anwar al-Aulaqi. Without trial or other judicial proceedings, the administration has simply put him on the to-be-killed list.\*

Whistleblowers in the military leaked a video showing U.S. troops firing on an unarmed party of Iraqis in 2007, including two journalists, and then firing on those who attempted to rescue them, including two children. As ugly as this video of the killing of 12 Iraqis was, the chatter recorded in the helicopter cockpit is even more monstrous. The Pentagon says that **there will be no charges against these soldiers** and the media absolves them of blame. "They were under stress," the story goes; "Our brave men and women must be supported." Meanwhile, those who leaked and publicized the video came under government surveillance and are targeted as "national security" threats.

The Pentagon acknowledged, after denials, **a massacre near the city of Gardez, Afghanistan**, on February 12, 2010. Five people were killed, including two pregnant women, leaving 16 children

motherless. The U.S. military first said the two men killed were insurgents, and the women, victims of a family "honor killing," but the Afghan government accepts the eyewitness reports that U.S. Special Forces killed the men, (a police officer and lawyer) and

the women, and then **dug their own bullets out of the women's bodies to destroy evidence**. Top U.S. military officials have now admitted that U.S. soldiers killed the family in their house.

Just weeks earlier, a story broken in *Harper's* by Scott Horton carried news that three supposed suicides of detainees in Guantánamo in 2006 were **not suicides, but possible homicides carried out by American personnel**. This passed almost without comment.\*\*

In some respects this is worse than Bush. First, because Obama has claimed the right to assassinate American citizens whom he suspects of "terrorism," merely on the grounds of his own suspicion or that of the CIA, something Bush never claimed publicly. Second, Obama says that the government can detain you indefinitely, even if you have been exonerated in a trial, and he has publicly floated the idea of "preventive detention." Third, the Obama Administration, in expanding the use of unmanned drone attacks, **argues that the U.S. has the authority under international law to use such lethal force and extrajudicial killing** in countries with which it is not at war.

Such measures by Bush were widely considered by liberals and progressives to be outrages and were roundly, and correctly, protested. But those acts which may have been construed (wishfully or not) as **anomalies under the Bush regime have now been consecrated into "standard operating procedure" by Obama**, who claims, as did Bush, executive privilege and state secrecy in defending the crime of aggressive war.

Unsurprisingly **the Obama administration has refused to prosecute** any members of the Bush regime who are responsible for war crimes, including some who admitted to waterboarding and other forms of torture, thereby making their actions acceptable for him or any future president.

**END THE COMPLICITY OF SILENCE. SIGN THIS STATEMENT & DONATE AT [WORLDcantwait.org](http://WORLDcantwait.org)**

\*On 9/24/10 the Justice Department asserted that "state secrets" bar any examination of Obama's order.

\*\*On 9/29/10 a U.S. Federal court dismissed a suit by the victims' families on grounds of "national security."

This message is signed by: James Abourezk • Aris Anagnos • Rocky Anderson • Edward Asner • William Ayers • Roseanne Barr • M. Cherif Bassiouni • Blase Bonpane • Fr. Bob Bossie • Judith Butler • Matthis Chiroux • Noam Chomsky • James Cromwell • Carl Dix • John Duran • Hester Eisenstein • Daniel Ellsberg • Jodie Evans • Tina Monshipour Foster • Donald Freed • Annie • Laurie Gaylor • Mike Gravel • Steven Hays • Chris Hedges • Pardiss Kebriaei • Kathy Kelly • Uzma Khan • Joyce Kozloff • Dennis Loo • Ethan McCord • Ray McGovern • Cynthia McKinney • Bill Quigley • Michael Ratner • Rev. George F. Regas • Stephen Rohde • Mark Ruffalo • Cindy Sheehan • Jed Stone • Debra Sweet • Sunsara • Taylor • Cornel West • Andy Worthington • Ann Wright • David Zeiger • Robert Zevin

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Ethan McCord, dissident Army veteran of the unit that killed 12 Iraqi civilians shown in Collateral Murder.

Pardiss Kebriaei, staff Attorney for the Center for Constitutional Rights: The Case Against Targeted Assassinations by the U.S.

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\*Donors will receive DVD with Collateral Murder & leaked Afghan War Diary documents.

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