

# Could You Be a War Criminal?

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- *From:* [alan@xx](mailto:alan@xx) (Alan)
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[http://ragemaker.com/stories/2005/war\\_criminal.htm](http://ragemaker.com/stories/2005/war_criminal.htm)

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...individuals have international duties which transcend the national obligations of obedience imposed by the individual state. Nuremberg International Military Tribunal (1947)

You may be astonished that anyone would accuse you of being a war criminal. You probably haven't killed or tortured anyone, yourself. In fact, you may know very little about whether your government is doing anything like that. Furthermore, you may not even want to know.

It is the moral responsibility of citizens, however, to inform themselves. Even if others are too unintelligent, morally deficient or cowardly to admit that atrocities are occurring around them, it is still your individual responsibility to stand up against these acts of murder and brutality. So you may be surprised to learn that you could be put on trial for failing to fight the crimes against humanity your country is perpetrating. If you fail to speak out against them, you are most assuredly complicit.

Even lacking in-depth knowledge of your country's actions, how can you condone unjustified war, torture, rape and the murder of thousands of innocent people? You must understand that attacking, invading and occupying the country of Iraq, no matter how vile its previous government, has absolutely nothing to do with the attacks on your own country by extremist ideologues -- none of whom came from Iraq, nor did they receive support from that country!

Law professor Frances Boyle has compiled a list of war crimes committed in Iraq which is available below. If you lack the resources or ability to determine the facts on your own, ask for assistance from someone who can help you discover the truth. It's your responsibility to find out.

Perhaps you take comfort in knowing that throughout history people have made war on one another. It is part of life; even part of civilized life, you may say. You may even consider this a minor quirk of history which will pass like a troublesome storm or merely politics as usual. I assure you this is no more politics as usual than it was in Germany circa 1938. Are you so insensitive or

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lacking the empathy to imagine what it would be like for you, your husbands, wives or children to be tortured, maimed or slaughtered in your own home?

It shouldn't be necessary to explain that the people of Iraq are human beings who love and marry and raise children they cherish and exp