

A DECLARATION OF CRISIS

OCTOBER 2007

A CALL TO ACT NOW TO SAVE OUR UNITED STATES
A CALL FOR AN AMERICAN PEOPLES' CONGRESS
TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE

We citizens of the United States believe democracy is the foundation of our country. Our nation is in a state of crisis.

THE WAR AGAINST IRAQ, THE THREAT OF WAR AGAINST IRAN
OUR COUNTRY SUFFERS A WAR-LIKE GOVERNMENT
WE ARE A PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE

On September 12th in 2001, our country enjoyed the sympathy and support of practically the entire world. Today ours is the most despised country on earth.

Our people have made it clear. We are a peace-loving people. We do not want war against nations that have not attacked us. Despite a mandate that our country turn away from the reckless policies of military aggression, George Bush and Richard Cheney continue their plans for military conquest and beating into submission the people of sovereign nations. It's terrible that our President and Vice President fail to understand the damage they do to our world and to us. It is tragic that our United States Senators and our Representatives in Congress fail to stop an administration that is destroying our Republic and threatens the world.

CRIMINAL ABUSE

VIOLATIONS OF LAW — IMPEACHABLE OFFENSES

The violations of the Constitution, of the oath of office, of domestic laws and of international laws, by George Bush, Richard Cheney and members of their administration, are numerous. Of the many violations for which indisputable evidence exists, we cite three primary violations:

1. The President, the Vice President and members of the President's Administration deliberately misrepresented the severity of the threat from Iraq by providing distorted intelligence to Congress in order to justify war with Iraq, in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 371. We were lied to war against Iraq, an impeachable crime.

2. George W. Bush admitted to ordering the National Security Agency to conduct electronic surveillance of American civilians without seeking warrants from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review, duly constituted by Congress in 1978, in violation of Title 50 United States Code, Section 1805.
3. George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney conspired to commit the torture of prisoners in violation of the “Federal Torture Act” Title 18 United States Code, Section 113C, the United Nations Torture Convention and the Geneva Convention, which under Article VI of the Constitution are part of the “supreme Law of the Land.”

INCOMPETENCE & CORRUPTION

From Baghdad to New Orleans, the George Bush and Richard Cheney administration bankrupt our treasury while inflicting unprecedented suffering on Americans and people all over the world. More than 3,800 Americans have been killed serving our country in the Iraq war, and about a million Iraqis have been killed, all people who would not otherwise have died had not our President and Vice President lied us to war against Iraq.

The cost of the Iraq war will soon reach one-half trillion dollars.

While the Bush administration gave huge tax-cuts to the top tenth of one percent of the wealthiest Americans, the first such tax-cuts in a time of war ever in our history, it attempted to operate its Iraq war by engaging private vendors in the form of private armies supplied by companies like Blackwater. These companies are not accountable to our U.S. military codes of conduct and are not answerable to U.S. law in their operations in Iraq.

Meanwhile, our people serving in Iraq suffer due to lack of proper equipment, armored vehicles, body armor, while private contractor war profiteers stole money that can be spent to protect our troops.

We suffer the national disgrace of our government’s incompetent response to hurricane Katrina, the obscene spectacle of thieves who stole our tax dollars and failed to provide promised relief for people left homeless in that disaster.

When Bush and Cheney took office in 2001, our national debt was \$1.6-trillion. When they leave office, our debt will be over \$9-trillion. The results of this incompetence and corruption are forcing more Americans into a lower standard of living and many into poverty. The number of foreclosed mortgages and people become homeless is at record levels. More people have no health insurance.

There's a prospect that as the economy "underperforms" and collapses, our treasury will be so bankrupt we will confront a time when our country's president will tell us both social security and medicare must end because there's no money to pay for them.

Today, two million Americans are in prison — the highest rate of imprisonment on the planet — and racism pervades our judicial system.

We believe there is indisputable evidence that the last two presidential elections were stolen by criminal actions, and that a significant number of other elections were stolen in the last seven years. On this account alone, it cannot be said our country is a functioning democracy.

We believe the Help America Vote Act is incompetent to the restoration and protection of democracy in our country. The evidence that no voting machine is safe from corruption and false vote counts is overwhelming and indisputable.

We call on all Americans to demand that our country adopt a national standard providing for the most reliable and honest exercise of democracy, paper-only voting counted by people, not machines, with oversight by all political parties and independent monitoring agencies. Democracy is more than a principle guaranteed by our Constitution. It is the birthright of every human being. We urge all citizens to call representatives and senators in Washington, representatives in the state legislatures and governors, and tell them there's no place for stolen elections in the United States, and that the people want paper-only voting, hand-counted by people, not machines. We support a **Voters' Bill of Rights** to protect democracy forever.

We believe justice and the future of our United States compel action now. We ask all Americans to stand up for our commonwealth and join the campaign to save our country.

The function of government is to serve peoples' needs, to enhance the potential for every citizen to fulfill her promise as a human being. Government is supposed to be not a force of punishment sticking its nose into the private lives of citizens; a democratic government is supposed to be an institution of life, for the good of all. Today we suffer a government that is an institution of death and oppression that promotes suspicion, hate and barbarity. Our government is un-American.

Despite all the evidence of this severe crisis, despite the strong indications from voters who demand change, we have a legislative branch that is not responsible to the people who elected it to serve us.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

Accordingly, we call on all citizens to organize their neighborhoods, their towns, cities and states, to join in an American Peoples' Congress to enforce that justice be restored and democracy be reclaimed in our nation, and that tells our legislators

— Representatives and Senators who don't support the withdrawal of all American combat service people from Iraq, by no later than April 2008, will be replaced by candidates who do the will of the people. This is more than enough time to engage the United Nations to assume the role of overseeing the policing of Iraq by a multinational force composed of people who are more acceptable to the Iraqi people. The United States can and should provide material and financial support for the effort, but no American combat personnel shall participate militarily on the ground in Iraq.

— All Representatives and Senators who refuse to support impeachment proceedings against George Bush, Richard Cheney, and all civil officers of the United States who have violated our laws as stipulated in Article Two, Section Four of our Constitution, will be replaced by candidates who insist on holding all those who commit criminal actions to account.

— The crisis is so severe we can't have nothing doing. We must act, and we call on our citizens to exercise sacrifice for our country by committing to purchasing minimally during the holiday shopping season from November through New Year's day. The politicians don't respect the millions of votes and letters and phone calls telling them to change course. It's time for us to act now, and boycotting the retail consumer sector sends a message of tremendous power that the politicians can't ignore. Because we're in a state of crisis, we aim to get millions of Americans to "**Just say no to business as usual.**"

— Most important, we call on you and all caring American patriots to organize your own **American Peoples' Congresses** throughout our land. It's time now for us to act in the best spirit of our country, to organize together to restore justice and reclaim democracy. We aim to achieve tens of thousands of affiliated groups of Americans dedicated to saving our country. This shall not include any business and corporate participation and must be strictly composed of citizens only, acting and speaking to address the needs of all people, and how best to meet those needs.

We must build anew a society of decency and dignity for all people, one in which every person is respected and afforded a life of fulfillment. That's the American way, and the time to save our country is now. We're beyond the Republican Party and the Democratic Party now. They're not working.

We offer separately a **Voters' Bill of Rights**, which is adapted from a document published by United for Peace and Justice in New York City.

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