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Bush and Blair to be 'charged'

Former US and British leaders on 'trial' at mock War Crimes Tribunal today

KUALA LUMPUR: Former US president George W. Bush and former British prime minister Tony Blair will be "charged" at a mock tribunal here for their war crimes today.

Perdana Global Peace Foundation president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who initiated the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal, said the two former leaders would be charged for crimes against peace for planning, preparing and invading the sovereign state of Iraq on March 19, 2003, in violation of the United Nations Charter and international law.

The tribunal would hold the proceedings for four days at No. 88, Jalan

Perdana here.

It would be open to the public. Dr Mahathir said although the two could not be jailed if they were found guilty, society could reject them by not inviting them to talks or events.

"Don't entertain these people or invite them to give talks," he said after launching the "War is Crime" exhibition held in conjunction with the tribunal's efforts to criminalise war.

Dr Mahathir alleged that Blair had lied to the British parliament and the British people.

"What do you want to learn from him? To learn how to lie?" he added.

Dr Mahathir said that voters of

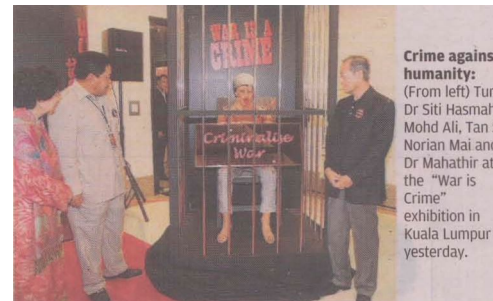
countries at risk of going to war should also hold politicians accountable by making them reject war as a way to resolve problems.

Tribunal counsel Avtaran Singh said the "charge" have been served on the two leaders.

"If they are found guilty of the charges, the tribunal would continue with the second charge of torture and war crimes," he added.

Avtaran said the United Nations Security Council and the International Criminal Court had failed to take action against Bush and Blair.

"Internationally, the system has failed," he added.



Crime against humanity: (From left) Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Tan Sri Norian Mai and Dr Mahathir at the "War is Crime" exhibition in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.