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Activist: Remove Blair as Mideast peace envoy

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former British prime minister Tony Blair should be removed as a Middle East envoy because of the war crimes he committed, said his sister-in-law yesterday.

Social activist Lauren Booth said the fact that Blair had been found guilty at a war crimes tribunal in Malaysia last year should immediately have led to his removal as the peace envoy on behalf of the Quartet

to the Middle East.

The Quartet comprises the United Nations, the United States, the European Union and Russia.

“His actions in sending the British army to invade Iraq and Afghanistan under false pretenses should mean that he could never take up a position like that in the first place.”

The KL War Crimes Tribunal had found former United States presid-

ent George W. Bush and Blair guilty of crimes against peace in November last year.

They had been charged for invading Iraq without justification, violating laws regulating the use of force and amounting to mass murder.

Blair had been appointed a Middle East envoy in 2007, and was widely praised for his efforts in bringing the peace process to fruition in North-

ern Ireland.

However, Booth said it was a completely different situation in Palestine, compared with Northern Ireland. “The Palestinians have been fighting Israeli injustice and occupation for over 64 years.

“Unfortunately, it can be seen that Blair completely accepts the Israeli narrative on things and therefore, was not the right person for the job.

She said Blair was not impartial enough to make any realistic difference in the peace process.

“Frankly, the whole world outside America sees the posting as a joke.”

She said the tribunal’s guilty verdict on Bush and Blair will reinvigorate the cause of bringing to justice the people who commit acts of terror on a state level against innocent civilians.