

**SPEECH BY TUN DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD
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1. It pains me to stand before you once again, to condemn the barbaric killings of the innocents, especially young children and women, which are still going on. The world has become so used to the killings that they no longer merit headline news. There is no more outrage, no cry for justice for the victims or demands for the perpetrators to be punished.
2. The horribly mutilated bodies of children on the TV screen move us not at all. It is just something happening to other people elsewhere.
3. On TV we are touched by the concern shown towards dogs and cats and whales. How humane are these people. They deserve to be applauded.
4. Of course we must care for animals and enjoy good football games. But cannot we spare some time, some sympathy, some concern for fellow humans, who are being slaughtered daily, children being shot, wounded and killed in the name of democracy, human rights, etc.
5. Far away from the war zones, we may think that the killings will only be confined to the Axis of Evil, to Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran. But actually we are witnessing the early years of the IV World War. The Cold War was the third. You will be startled by this statement. You will be surprised and incredulous. You may think I am being alarmist or even irrational. But think again. To the countries and people involved, the war is very real. Saying that it is not war will not bring back the dead nor heal the wounds of the wounded, or the sadness and the despair.
6. But I am not the one to call the present war “the fourth World War”. Let us read what Dr Earl Tilford, professor of history and fellow of the Foundation for the Defence of Democracies wrote:
7. “World War IV is a total war on a global scale. **World War IV** seems complex but keep in mind during World War III (the Cold War) while American forces fought North Vietnamese regulars and National Liberation Front (Vietcong) guerrillas in South Vietnam, we also fought the Pathet Lao in Laos and Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. From Greece and Yugoslavia to Korea and Vietnam and the Caribbean and jungles of South America, the Cold War involved a large number of nations and groups. Nevertheless, it all came together as part of a struggle between competing worldviews.
8. “The War on Terror is no less complicated and similarly encompassing. Our enemies are more than savage barbarians with a penchant for decapitating the innocent. They are integral to a concerted effort to redefine the world order.

9. **“This is World War IV.** Forget the sleazy sickness of Abu Ghraib. Stop mouthing meaningless slogans like, ‘Bush Lied, Soldiers Died.’ Steel yourselves for a long bloody fight. This is a war we must not lose.”

10. The God-Father of the Neo-Cons, Norman Podhoretz echoed similar sentiments when he wrote the blueprint for the global conflict, **“World War IV: How it Started, What It Means and Why We Have to Win?”** He declared unequivocally:

11. “Iraq is only the second front ... the second scene so to speak of the first act of a five act play. In World War II and World War III, we persisted in spite of impatience, discouragement, and opposition for as long as it took to win, and this is exactly what we have been called to do today in **World War IV.**”

12. I venture to suggest that the issue is settled, when the former MOSSAD Chief, Efraim Halevi confidently observed:

13. “We are in the throes of a world war, raging over the entire globe and characterised by the absence of lines of conflict and an easily identifiable enemy. There are sometimes long pauses between one attack and another, consequently creating the wrong impression that the battle is over or at least in the process of being won.”

14. It is arguable that the first blueprint was laid out in 1992 in the infamous “Defense Planning Guidance” written by Paul Wolfowitz. He argued forcefully that the primary objective of the United States in the new uni-polar world is to “prevent the re-emergence of a new rival dominating a region whose resources, would, under consolidated control, be sufficient to generate global power.”

15. To achieve this objective, Wolfowitz advocated the unbridled projection of American military power throughout the world.

16. The ideological enemy chosen for the purpose for waging global wars was Islam and as Mr. Max Boot, Wolfowitz’s partner in crime, explains:

“We have already vanquished Nazism and communism. Only one of the twentieth century’s evil ideologies – fascism, this time in its Islamic variant – remains to be defeated for liberalism to breathe easier. Victory is almost in sight. We ought not to return to passivity now.”

17. Democracy must triumph over fascism. But what is this “democracy” which they are promoting so fervently?

18. The Neo-Con, Charles Kessler has a ready answer. He advocated that:

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“If democratisation is to succeed in the regimes of the Islamic world, a necessary pre-condition is **to beat these regimes into complete submission and then occupy them for decades, not just months or years but for decades. Even then our troops may have to stay and die indefinitely** on behalf of a mission.”

19. Iraq has been occupied for almost three years, and despite overwhelming force to beat the Iraqis into submission, the opposite has taken place. There is now a growing resistance against the occupation. There has been two elections, but the “elected leaders” cannot even venture safely out of their Green Zone, a fortified area of a few square miles, protected by the American military.

20. The war criminals are not content with their handiwork thus far. War preparations against Iran are already under way. USS Ronald Reagan, the largest and most advanced aircraft carrier in the world, recently docked in Westport, Klang, en-route to the Persian Gulf to join two other aircraft carrier groups - the largest U.S. Battle Group deployed in recent times. The United States Iran Freedom Support Act of 2005, like the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 will provide U.S. the legal basis for the unprovoked attack on Iran. International law has no relevance.

21. A horrifying devastation awaits the Iranians – the war criminal Bush has declared that “all options are on the table”, including the unilateral use of nuclear weapons. To avoid any potential public outcry, the spin doctors justified the use of such weapons as mere ‘bunker busters,’ to knock out the alleged WMDs stored in bunkers located all over Iran. This allegation, that the Iranians have WMDs stored in bunkers, has been repeatedly refuted by the IAEA. The fact that Iran is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has fully complied with its provisions for use of nuclear power for peaceful purpose, for energy, counts for nothing. The Western media continue to demonise Iran as a nuclear threat to the United States, Israel and the world.

22. In March 2005, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff published the Doctrine for Joint Nuclear Operations which authorised Geographic Combat Commanders to use nuclear weapons for a variety of situations, namely:

- i) To counter potentially overwhelming adversary conventional forces;
- ii) For rapid and favourable war termination on U.S. terms;
- iii) To ensure success of U.S. multi-national operations; and
- iv) To demonstrate U.S. intent and capability to use nuclear weapons to deter adversary use of WMD.

23. Donald Rumsfeld in the Quadrennial Defense Review Report of February 2006, emphasised in no uncertain terms that the U.S. as a nation will be engaged in a long war. He warned that although the struggle is currently centred in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. will need to be prepared to successfully defend its interests around the globe for years to come. On any given day, nearly 350,000 men and women of the U.S. Armed forces are deployed or stationed in approximately 130 countries. He called upon Western democracies to acknowledge that they are locked in a life and death struggle comparable to those against fascism and communism. Demonising Islam, he charged that “the enemy have designed and distributed a map where national borders are erased and replaced by a global extremist Islamic Empire.”

24. In March 2006, President Bush in issuing his National Security Strategy echoed Donald Rumsfeld’s call for America to be prepared for a long war. Yet again, Islam was demonised. President Bush reiterated:

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“The United States is in the early years of a long struggle, similar to what our country faced in the early years of the Cold War. The 20th century witnessed the triumph of freedom over the threats of fascism and communism. Yet a new totalitarian ideology now threatens, an ideology grounded not in secular philosophy but in the perversion of a proud religion.”

25. These are strong words from the President of the most powerful country in the world and he has shown he is capable of carrying out his threats.

26. We must put a stop to their war plans! We must stop the killings!

27. Some of you may remember Najwa, the brave Palestinian school girl from Jenin, who spoke to us in December 2005. She wrote an e-mail to us. It was a desperate cry for help. She implored us to tell the world: Patients - men, women and children are dying for lack of basic medicines. 165,000 employees of the Palestinian Authority have not been paid their wages for months because Israel and the United States have imposed financial sanctions, preventing any transfer of funds from aid organisations. Families are forced to sell what little jewellery they have for food and fuel. The Israeli soldiers are killing children, some as young as 4 years old.

28. Like any other children, she just wants to go to school. She said she wants to be a psychiatrist, so that she can help those young Palestinians traumatised by the senseless killings and the wanton destruction of their homes, having to witness at such tender age, their parents and friends buried alive under the rubble after Israeli tanks and bulldozers levelled an entire neighbourhood. She survived the Jenin massacre when she was barely 12 years old. Please spare a thought for Najwa and her young friends. All they yearn for is peace – to walk to school without being shot at, not having to wait for hours at checkpoints, just so that the Israeli soldiers can flaunt their power and authority, not having to rely on aid for survival – in short, to have the human right to live in peace!

29. The United Nations reported that 37% of the estimated 3.7 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip had trouble getting food. Poverty rate in the Gaza Strip has reached a staggering 65%. Up to 16% of Palestinians – 550,000 are living on US\$1.50 a day with the likelihood that the figure will rise to 35% if aid is not forthcoming.

30. In response to this heartless and inhuman policy, Dov Weissglass, advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel, was quoted by Haaretz as saying: “It’s like an appointment with a dietician. The Palestinians will get a lot thinner, but won’t die.” Yet the Palestinians are demonised as “terrorists”; they are not even allowed to defend themselves and to fight for survival.

31. Another girl, in another country suffers in silence. Barely 10 years old, Iman Walid witnessed the massacre of her family by U.S. marines in Haditha, Iraq. She told Ali Hamdani of ITV News that the marines came charging into her house and shot her father who was praying. They then killed the rest of her family. She survived merely because the marines left her for dead after the indiscriminate shooting. This is what she said: “I couldn’t see their faces well, only their guns sticking into the doorway. I watched them shoot my grandfather, first in the chest and then in the head. They then killed my granny.”

32. Iman’s grandfather was shot nine times, causing his intestines to spill through the exit wounds in the back. The memory of blood soaked bodies of her family haunts her daily.

33. The marines then went and slaughtered the entire family of Younis Salim Khafif, Iman’s neighbour. An eye-witness reported that he heard Younis begging for his life, but he was shot in cold blood. Hand grenades were lobbed into the house. The witness

described the bloody scene - "the blood was everywhere in Salim's bedroom. I saw organs and flesh on the ground and a liver on the bed. Blood splattered the ceiling. The bullet holes were in the walls and in different parts of the house." A total of 24 civilians were killed. The children killed were aged 14, 10, 5, 3 and 1.

34. A taxi drove up the road and was stopped by the marines. The four students and the driver were hauled out of the car and shot. When their dastardly deed was done, the marines took the bodies to the Haditha hospital and dumped them in the garden and drove off.

Charles Kessler must be very happy that these Iraqis were beaten not only into submission, but to a gory death!

35. This war crime took place in November 2005 but it was only very recently that this unspeakable act of horror was exposed. Like the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, the U.S. military tried to cover up the crime. When video tapes of the massacre were shown to the Marine Commanders, they claimed that it was "Al Qaeda in Iraq propaganda." However, truth finally prevailed. But will there be justice? Will Iman Walid be just another casualty of war, a mere statistic, one more child without parents? Will Bush, Blair, Howard, Rumsfeld, Condoleeza Rice and others high up in the chain of command be arraigned before a War Crimes Tribunal?

36. The massacre at Haditha is not an isolated incident. Such killings have been rampant since the illegal invasion of Iraq in 2003. The Observer recently reported that Iraqis were routinely referred to by soldiers as "Hajis" in a manner similar to the way the Vietnamese were referred to as "gooks" or "Charlie."

37. This is a form of brain-washing so as to arouse the hatred of the soldiers for the enemy. When there is this hatred, there would no hesitation about killing even defenceless people, children and non-combatants. And we are seeing this frequently in Iraq and Afghanistan.

38. Today in Iraq there are daily queues of women and children in front of mosques and morgues to identify mutilated bodies; to recover the bodies of their husbands, brothers or sons who had most likely been killed. Often they would find decomposing corpses which were unrecognizable. Over 6,000 corpses were found in the past five months: 1,068 in January, 1,110 in February, 1,294 in March, 1,155 in April and 1,375 in May. Most of these corpses had gunshot wounds, while others had marks of burns, electrocution and holes made by electric drills, conclusive evidence of torture. Each time, I come across such reports and pictures of grieving families, it tears my heart out. It may be that Iraqi's are killing Iraqis but it is the invasion and war by the Americans and the British which unleashed their savagery. But let us remember that often it is the work of British and American soldiers.

39. But what did James Woolsey, the former CIA Director tell the troops why this is a war to the death? He said:

"We are loathed for our freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, open economies, equal – almost equal – treatment of women, and so on. It is not what we have done wrong, that is creating the problem; it is what we do right.

40. "If that is true, then this is not a war that will end with an Al Qaeda Gorbachev; it will not end with arms control agreement. It is a war to the death, like the war with the Nazis, and we should understand that it will have to be fought that way."

41. Inigo Gilmour of the BBC, in the program "News-night" revealed that U.S. soldiers are being trained, "to see Iraqis as animals, shoot up the landscape and kill anything that moved". Congressman John Murtha, a former marine and supporter of Bush and now a harsh critic of the war in Iraq, said that the brutal murders in Haditha might prove to be America's darkest hour in Iraq.

42. The U.S. occupation authority has now ordered that troops attend a two-hour course on "moral and ethical values." To clear their conscience, blood money amounting to a paltry \$2,500 was paid to the surviving members of the victims' families, as if that is sufficient contrition. Bush the war criminal promised a thorough investigation and punishment for those who broke the law. But he said the same thing when the torture scandal in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay was exposed. And this is the elected leader of the greatest democracy.

43. The world know the war against Iraq is illegal, not sanctioned by the Security Council of the United Nations and a direct contravention of the UN Charter. War crimes have been committed and the provisions of the Geneva Conventions flouted. Why do Bush and Blair disregard world opinion? It is because the world still believes war i.e. killing people is legitimate. In war the winner is right. The loser, even if he is defending his country is wrong. He will be tried and hanged.

44. This sanctioning of war and the rights of the winner encourages attainment of strong military capacity and resort to war at the slightest excuse. There will never be peace until winners and losers are tried for their crimes by neutral countries and punished.

45. Americans and Brits are also victims of war. At the last count 2,500 American soldiers have been killed in Iraq. Thousands more have been injured, many "seriously". The survivors will live with their physical and mental disabilities for life. What have their sacrifices been for. For nothing. So many lives wasted, so many disabled only to earn the hatred of millions. Neither Iraq nor Afghanistan nor Iran will belong to America or Britain. Because of Bush and Blair, American and British life will always be in danger, insecure. The sacrifices are for nothing. The longer it lasts the more lives will be wasted for nothing. Bush and Blair will run no risk. They will be guarded by thousand of security personnel. It is the ordinary man who will pay the price of this folly. We sympathise with Cindy Sheehan and the American and British mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters who will lose their loved ones for nothing.

46. The escape clause that countries not having ratified the provisions for the International Criminal Court are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, and therefore their leaders having committed war crimes cannot be tried for such crimes should not prevent the peace loving peoples of the world to mete out justice. It cannot be the case that international law is without remedies for the victims of war crimes. The International Community must summon the political will to bring these war criminals to justice.

47. It is time that we stand together to stop this madness. We must win the propaganda war to banish wars as an option to resolve disputes and conflicts between nations and communities.

48. Given the foregoing intentions of the war criminals to wage relentless wars for years to come and the reality that World War IV as explained has started, our call to criminalise war during the Perdana Global Peace Forum in December 2005 is both timely and appropriate. The "Kuala Lumpur Declaration to Criminalise War" should constitute the basic strategy for the global peace movement to advance the cause for peace.

49. I would like to reiterate that we must banish war as an option in the settlement of disputes and conflicts between nations; to recognise and define war as "legitimised mass murder, as inhuman and uncivilised." I call upon the world to reject war totally and to accept peace as the true expression of the humaneness and nobility of humankind and the ultimate measure of the level of civilisation humanity should strive for, should attain.

50. In the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, we declared:

- Wars increasingly involve the killing of innocent people and are therefore, abhorrent and criminal.
- Killings in wars are as criminal as the killings within societies in times of peace.
- Since killings in peace time are subject to the domestic law of crime, killings in war must likewise be subject to the international law of crime. This should be so irrespective of whether these killings in war are authorised or permitted by domestic law.

51. The leaders of countries who wage wars must be labelled War Criminals even as they unfairly demonise and label the leaders of victim countries as such. While the international media never cease to call President Saddam Hussein a war criminal and unfairly likened President Ahmadinejad to Hitler, Ariel Sharon is proclaimed a man of peace - a man who has bloodied his hands in the mass murders of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon and Jenin in Palestine is a man of peace,

52. If we are to succeed in criminalising war, we must call a spade a spade. We must win the propaganda war. We must not allow such leaders to invoke God to justify their criminal actions and avoid being labelled as war criminals. Bush and Blair and any leader, present or future who wage wars must not and should not be addressed by any honorific. We should simply call them "War Criminal Bush", "War Criminal Blair" as casually as they would label the targets of their wars of aggression. Without such a determined and relentless propaganda war, we would not succeed in criminalising war.

53. In the name of democracy, freedom and God, the war criminals have waged and continue to wage wars of aggressions and commit heinous war crimes. In the name of peace, we must mount a global effort to prevent war criminals from waging wars and the slaughter of the innocents. We must be resolute. We must not flinch in the face of adversity. Our cause is just and victory is assured though the struggle will be long and arduous. God willing, peace will prevail. Thank You.