Chinese deliberately; NATO hit embassy on purpose, “Guardian Oct. 16, 1999)
On April 23, 1999, the U.S. rocketed the central state broadcasting offices in Belgrade, destroying the building, killing 16 civilian employees, and wounding 16. Human rights groups around the world said the attack was a war crime.[1]
The United States used cluster bombs widely in its wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the former Yugoslavia, according to reports by Human Rights Watch, *The Lancet*, and the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.[2] In one case, U.S.-led NATO forces attacked the main hospital complex in Nis, Serbia with cluster bombs May 7, 1999, killing three outside the hospital, three on the operating table, and nine at an adjoining market. (“Serbs Say 15 are Killed at Hospital and Market,” *New York Times*, May 8, 1999)

Even the pro-war editorial board of the *New York Times*, while boasting “This page has been supportive of the war in Afghanistan since it began,” acknowledged on Feb. 4, 2019, that, “Tens of thousands of Afghan civilians have been killed, maimed and traumatized. Millions of people are internally displaced or are refugees in Iran and Pakistan.”

“These things happen in war,” Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said casually referring to the now infamous “methodical” execution-style massacre of 24 men, women, and children in Haditha, Iraq, Nov. 19, 2006. Yes, the murder of innocents occurs in war, inevitably, every time, without exception, which is why anti-war activists are so keen to prevent it, condemn it, and to end it once it’s been started.

As the late Yale psychiatrist and author Robert Litton has shown, all wars are “atrocity producing situations,” and the series of headlines that follows, edited for space, illustrates arguably criminal U.S. military conduct in recent wars and can provide prosecutors in The Hague a basis for launching investigations.

**Headlines sketch U.S. war crime spree**


“Lethal U.S. Airstrike on Afghan Drug Labs is Disput


“For Afghan Civilians, 2018 Was the Deadliest in a Decade (“Among the dead last year were 927 children”), *New York Times*, Feb. 25, 2019

“U.S. Airstrikes Said to Kill at Least 10 Afghan Civilians,” *New York Times*, Feb. 11, 2019


“Civilians Killed in U.S.-Afghan Operation,” *New York Times*, Nov. 29, 2018

“Decorated Navy SEAL Accused is Recruiting of War Crimes in Iraq,” *New York Times*, Nov. 15, 2018


“Study: U.S. Killed 500 Civilians,” (“Pentagon may be grossly undercounting”), *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, June 3, 2018


“U.S. Airstrikes Kill at Least 13 Civilians,” Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, Nov. 5, 2017


“Civilians Deaths From U.S.-led Strikes on ISIS Surge Under Trump Administration” (“over 3,800”), *Guardian*, June 6, 2017


“Missiles Kill 26 in Pakistan” (“most of them civilians”), *New York Times*, March 18, 2011


“Murtha Says Probe Has Found Marines Killed Innocent Civilians,” *Omaha World Herald*, May 19, 2006

***

On Sep. 16, 2004, a BBC correspondent questioned U.S. Secretary General Kofi Annan about the unprovoked U.S. bombardment and invasion of Iraq asking, “It was illegal?” Annan answered, “Yes. I have indicated it is not in conformity with the U.N. Charter. From our point of view and from the Charter point of view, it was illegal.” Likewise, Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah said March 28, 2007, “In the beloved Iraq, the bloodshed is continuing under an illegal foreign occupation...”

The 1946 Nuremberg Judgment comes to mind, especially as it was drafted by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson and enforced by U.S.-led allies: “The charges in the indictment that the defendants planned and waged aggressive wars are charges of the utmost gravity. War is essentially an evil thing. Its consequences are not confined to the belligerent states alone, but affect the whole world.”


Get In Line: Investigate U.S. Atrocities First

Continued from page 1

Nukewatch Quarterly - 8

Summer 2022