War and Obama’s War Crimes

1. He escalated the war in Afghanistan by authorizing sixty thousand more troops.

2. He expanded “war on terror” to “global battlefield”

a. he claims the right to targeted assassinations (including American citizens) anywhere in the world without charge or trial.

b. he has authorized a kill list

c. he expanded drone attacks in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somali, Yemen and Mali (the majority of these attacks are “signature strikes” which do not distinguish between combatants and civilians).

d. he has enlarged a force called the Joint Special Operations Command which

only answers to him, no other senior officer in the U.S. military. It is over seventy thousand and its operations are covert (and even when revealed are disappeared.

3. He continued the practice of rendition (capturing people designated, but not charged or tried, terrorist and flying them to “black sites” in countries that torture).

4. He has continued operation of Guantanamo and by his order all remaining prisoners, though half have been cleared for release, are to be held in indefinite detention and he has authorized in violation of international law the force-feeding of those on a hunger strike.

5. He authorized the bombing of Syria in 2012 as an attempt to destabilize the government of Assad, subsequently creating a failed state and another opportunity for ISIS.

6. Renewed the bombing of Iraq.

7. Claims the right of “sovereign immunity” (immune from prosecution for any actions he takes as commander in chief during war time).

8. Signed legislation giving the president power to designate an American citizen living in the U.S. a terrorist and direct the U.S. military to arrest the person and incarcerate him or her without trial, forever.

9. Not only failed to prosecute Bush officials for war crimes and torture, but kept several of those officials in key positions.

Violations: Geneva Conventions, International Law (Convention on Torture), UN Charter, U.S Constitution, US law on torture.

Economy

1. He appointed Wall Street insiders and the architects of the global economic crisis under the Clinton administration as top economic advisers.

2. He chose to continue and expand the bail out Wall Street with $700 billion and absorbed all of toxic assets ($5 to $7 trillion). Total of the Bush/Obama bailout is between 13 and 20 trillion.

3. Forced unions to take less (bailout of GM) while employees in financial industry got bonuses (Goldman Sachs, AIG)

4. Financial Reform: no real reform or regulatory power, and no accountability. His justice department has not prosecuted a major figure in the criminal destruction of the global economy.

5. He included in his financial stimulus plan more money for the war on drugs.

6. He “reformed” health care: increased profit to insurance industry by mandating that all Americans must get health care but not regulating the price to and has left 30 million uninsured.

7. Appointed former CEO of General Electric to head of Jobs Creation Council (GE is typical outsourcer of jobs and since 1980 has outsourced half of its work force).

8. He authorized the cutting of food stamps for children when he signed the farm (meaning agribusinesses) subsidy legislation.

Immigration

1. His policies led to the deportation of more immigrants that any other President.

2. He escalated the militarization of the border.

3. His policies led to the creation of a gulag of immigration prisons and courts that continue to violate rights of detainees.

4. His failure to condemn the military overthrow of Honduran government and his failure not to use the economic and political resources at his disposal led to Honduras becoming the murder capital of the western hemisphere and an influx of child refugees.

Environment

1. He appointed Ken Salazar to Secretary of the Interior (strong ties to oil companies).

2. He issued more permits for deep water off-shoring drilling, despite the BP disaster.

3. Issued more permits for mountain top removal and failed to enforce clean water act in relation to mountain top removal.

5. He chose to subsidized nuclear power, claiming it is clean energy (the process by which uranium is enriched into nuclear fuel rods is one of the most environmentally damaging processes known).

6. Subsidized “clean coal” an oxymoron to anyone who has spent fifteen minutes reading about how coal is processed.

7. Deregulated “fracking”

8. No oversight of BPs cleanup and failure to prosecute anyone in BP or Halliburton

Constitutional Rights

1. Appointed Eric Holder attorney general (Holder was lead defense attorney for Chiquita in a case where Chiquita was accused of hiring paramilitary to kill union organizers. Chiquita subsequently pled guilty)

2. Administration defended telecom immunity from lawsuits involving their illegal wiretapping of America citizens.

3. Administration raided homes of anti-war protestors, claiming they gave “material support” to terrorists.

4. Administration has invoked “states secret” doctrine to halt court proceedings challenging Obama’s right to issue extra-legal death warrants.

5. Administration has argued in court that the courts have no right to interfere with executive branch during war time.

6. Administration invoked “state secrets” to block lawsuits that would reveal complicity of private corporations in rendition.

7. Administration has argued for sovereign immunity.

8. He authorized NSA surveillance of US citizens. Widest surveillance of citizens ever and of citizens who have done nothing. Violation of International Law Covenant on Political and Civil Rights

(leads to the destruction of our democracy and the social fabric)

Education (Race to the Top)

1. Appointed Arne Duncan, charter/privatization, to Secretary of Education.

2. His education program was race to the top

a. emphasized standardized testing

b. Program also emphasized publicly funded, privately run charter schools.

c. Emphasis teacher salaries tied to standardized test scores.

3. States had to compete for funding by demonstrating their commitment to a-c.

(Leads to prison, loss lives, undermining of democracy)

War on Drugs

1. His administration is committed to the failed and racist war on drugs.

2. He authorized increased funding for the war on drugs, money primarily going to militarization of U.S. police.

3. He authorized increased weaponization of police, automatic weapons, armored vehicles etc

4. His commitment to the war on drugs has been a significant factor in the increase in SWAT raids to 50,000 a year during his administration, 80% are search warrants for home.

(Led to millions of lost lives.)

No Profile in Courage

1. He chose to exclude the option of single payer from health care reform, and he failed to even stand up for public option.

2. He failed to support Sen Dick Durbin’s legislation to bail out home owners.

3. He failed to fully support for Elizabeth Warren to head consumer protection division.

4. He failed to demand tax cuts for the middle class (which Republicans said they would have to support if he pushed)

5. He failed to even allow the original Bush tax cuts for the rich to expire.

6. Went to King Abdullah’s funeral and called him a moderate. As a moderate, Abdullah’s monarchy sentenced “witches” to death, beheaded adulterous women, and sentenced critics to prison, one to one thousand lashes.

7. He has failed to say an absolute and positive “no” to police murders of black Americans.