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Statement on Ad-Dujayl Judgment

Secretary Condoleezza Rice

Washington, DC

November 5, 2006

Today, the Iraqi High Tribunal concluded deliberations in the Ad-Dujayl trial and issued judgments against individuals accused of committing crimes against humanity and other crimes. The Tribunal is an independent body established by the Iraqi Government to judge cases of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. We commend the Tribunal's professional and impartial deliberations. The completion of the trial phase is a first step. Those convicted have the right of appeal.

Today's decision is a hopeful reminder to all Iraqis that the rule of law can triumph over the rule of fear and that the peaceful pursuit of justice is preferable to the pursuit of vengeance. The United States Government and the American people applaud those brave Iraqis, whether they be judges, prosecutors, or defense attorneys, who continue to work every day in the name of justice, democracy, and the rule of law for Iraq.

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