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## **Army Court 'Not Acceptable' for Hicks**

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THE Australian government should demand David Hicks be put on trial in a United States civil court now, Federal Opposition Leader Kim Beazley has said.

Adelaide-born Hicks has been held by US authorities at GuantanamoBay since he was captured with Taliban forces in Afghanistan in late 2001. He has pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit war crimes, attempted murder and aiding and abetting the enemy. His military commission trial is currently on hold, pending the decision of a related US Supreme Court matter involving another terrorist suspect.

Mr Beazley today said the Federal Government should be telling the US to try Hicks in a civil court.

"The Australian government should ... say to the Americans, 'Look you have had him now for four years, put him on trial in a US civil court now'," Mr Beazley told reporters in Perth.

He said Labor had total confidence in US civil courts, but none for the military commission, which Hicks is expected to face.

"A military commission is not acceptable, that is not the way America would try their own citizens and we want the same justice for David Hicks that any American would get," he said.

Hicks, whose mother was born in the United Kingdom, has applied for British citizenship.

A UK appeals court overnight upheld a ruling against the British government's bid to deny Hicks citizenship, increasing his chances of being freed from the US military prison.

Britain , unlike Australia, has successfully fought for the release of all its nationals from GuantanamoBay.