

# STOP an ATTACK on Iraq

The Bush administration has made it clear that it intends for Iraq to be the next target in the ongoing war on terrorism. The stated goal of this attack would be a "regime change" meant to displace Saddam Hussein. While Hussein has proven to be a brutal dictator, an attack on Iraq would likely result in large scale casualties to innocent Iraqi civilians, would break international law and regional stability in the Middle East, and would not make Americans safer.

## US Policy Toward Iraq

According to Foreign Policy In Focus, a foreign policy think-tank, "The US quietly supported Saddam Hussein during the 1980s through direct economic aid, indirect military aid, and the transfer of technologies with military applications." Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1991, provoked an aggressive military assault lead by the US and a number of United Nations Security Council members. The 1991 Gulf War resulted in the deaths of over 100,000 Iraqis and destroyed much of the country's civilian infrastructure, like sewage and water treatment facilities.

Since that time Iraqi civilians have suffered doubly under Hussein's totalitarian regime and economic sanctions imposed on the country by the US and United Nations after the Gulf War cease-fire. In addition, the United States has continued air-strikes against the country, such as the bombing campaigns of April 1993, September 1996, December 1998 and near weekly bombing since early 1999. Due to war, sanctions, and ongoing bombing campaigns, as many as one million Iraqi civilians have died from malnutrition and preventable disease. According to UNICEF, these circumstances cause the deaths of over 4,500 Iraqi children every month. A further military attack on the country would severely worsen the suffering of the Iraqi people.

And there is no guarantee that "regime change" would result in a more humanitarian government in Iraq. Currently, there is no democratic Iraqi movement that is in a position to lead the country. If Saddam Hussein is ousted it is extremely likely that another similarly brutal dictator would step into his place.

## Solutions that *will* make us safer

*Instead of launching a dangerous and expensive war on Iraq, the US should pursue real solutions that will make us safer:*

- *Open new doors for diplomatic alternatives to the current impasse.*
- *Lift economic sanctions that target Iraqi civilians.*
- *Negotiate, through the UN and other regional systems, a return of weapons inspectors to the country.*
- *Support democracy and human rights throughout the Middle East.*
- *Strengthen international agreements to reduce weapons of mass destruction.*

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## No case

The Bush administration is using the pretext of the horrific events of September 11, and the context of its open-ended war on terrorism to justify an attack on Iraq. However, there is no evidence that Saddam Hussein has any connection to Al Qaeda. In addition, the administration has presented no evidence that Iraq has tried, or will try, to attack the US. If we attack Iraq with no provocation, we define a new, and dangerous kind of aggression that other countries may soon follow. This invasion would further undermine US credibility in respect to international law - the administration's planned attack on Iraq is explicitly counter to the United Nations charter.

*A war on Iraq will cost America \$80 to \$100 billion. Reconstruction of the country following a US invasion could cost \$50 to \$150 billion dollars. \$100 billion is more than three times what the federal government spends on K-12 education.*

-National Priorities Project  
[www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org)

## War on Iraq won't make us safer

Virtually every Arab country opposes a US attack on Iraq. In March of 2002, all 22 members of the Beirut summit of the Arab League signaled their desire to see an end to the US conflict with Iraq. Concerns about the impact of US actions upon regional stability were summed up by one member of the Kuwaiti royal family in the *New York Times*: "Just open a map... Afghanistan is in turmoil, the Middle East is in flames, and you want to open a third front in the region? That would truly turn into a war of civilizations (July 2002)."

An attack on Iraq is popularly opposed throughout the Middle East and will inflame anger and resentment toward the US - increasing anti-American sentiment and sowing the seeds of terrorism, rather than helping to weed it out.

While it is unclear what Iraq's weapons capabilities are, military aggression is not the best way to encourage disarmament. In fact, an attack on Iraq could provoke Hussein into using any weapons of mass destruction left in his control. In the 1990's United Nations (UN) weapons inspectors effectively disarmed Iraq. The best way to persuade Iraq to allow UN weapons inspectors to return to the country is to negotiate an end to the economic sanctions. The US could help stabilize the region by using diplomacy to encourage disarmament throughout the Middle East.

## Take Action

**Tell your Representative and Senators:** *An attack on Iraq will not make Americans safer. It will de-stabilize the Middle East and increase anti-American sentiments. We need a foreign policy based on the force of law, not the law of force.*

You can find out who represents you at [congress.org](http://congress.org) and can reach your member of Congress by calling the congressional switchboard: (202) 224-3121

For other ways to get active to stop an attack on Iraq, check out:

**[www.peace-action.org](http://www.peace-action.org)**

**Local Contact:**

**Peace Action**  
EDUCATION FUND

The Peace Action Education Fund informs the public, media, and policy makers about policy alternatives in order to cut military spending, end global weapons trafficking, and abolish nuclear weapons.

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