

PREVENTING WAR: IRAN

Real Security through International Cooperation

SPEAK OUT!

**Against Any Military Action Against Iran
Contact Your Congressional Representative**
Call the congressional switchboard
(202-224-3121)

STRONG EVIDENCE FOR IRANIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN IRAQ?

Indications that the U.S. is preparing to attack military bases in Iran:

Ever since Admiral Fallon, an opponent of war with Iran, stepped down from CENTCOM command, and since Gen Petraeus' testified before Congress, an ever-increasing chorus of administration officials have echoed the same theme: Iranian weapons and Iranian trained militia are killing Americans in Iraq.

The clearly coordinated and scripted team included Chair of the Joint Chiefs Mullen, Sec. Of Defense Gates, CIA Director Hayden, and current and former Ambassadors to the U.N. Khalilzad and Bolton. These accusations have been accompanied by the introduction of a second U.S. aircraft carrier in the Gulf, a report that the National Security Council has approved plans for an attack on Iranian bases, a statement from Admiral Mullen about "potential military courses of action", a CBS report that the State Department is preparing an ultimatum for Iran, and recent joint discussions on Iran between the Israeli Defense Forces, Admiral Mullen, and NATO.

The Pentagon has yet to display the Iranian weapons, has already withdrawn one such claim, and has deferred to the Iraqi government to investigate its claims, which the Iraqis had previously called "not conclusive" or "speculative" (and their President Talabani denied).

Others have pointed out that it is difficult to distinguish between smuggled and officially supplied weapons. In addition, the majority of American battles with Shiites have been with the Mahdi militia, which Iran has condemned (in favor of the Maliki government supported by the US) and which in turn has strongly criticized Iran.

Iran may assist or train Iraqi Shiites, but the extent of this assistance, if any, is unknown, and is certainly not a strong basis for attacking Iran. Ambassador Bolton recently referred to British Intelligence which said that America had exaggerated Iran's military role in Iraq. On the contrary, the Bush Administration has reportedly obtained Congressional approval for clandestine attacks within Iran – the very type of action we condemn if it were carried out by Iran within Iraq. A US-labeled "terrorist" organization, the MEK, is allowed to have a base in Iraq not far from the Iranian border.

LACK OF PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE "BLOWBACK" FROM AN ATTACK ON IRAN:

Of 10 randomly picked articles in the mainstream America media where an attack on Iran is mentioned, not one brings up what the Iranians might do in response. It is folly to plan an attack, expecting that there will be no Iranian response. If they responded by attacking an American base or boat, this would precipitate a major American military response and then spiral into a major war, quite possibly involving Israel as well.

War games (e.g. Atlantic Monthly, 2004) have shown that an attack on Iran would have disastrous consequences. CBS News reported that "a large number of senior military leaders share Admiral Fallon's broad assessment that a war with Iran would bring unexpected and, perhaps, unmanageable, risks elsewhere in the Muslim world and around the globe." Gasoline prices at \$7 a gallon and more American casualties are not being considered.

It falls to Congress to question what the catastrophic consequences of a reckless attack on Iran might be. Meanwhile, the drumbeats of war are getting louder, and preventive action is ever more urgent. Once an attack is launched, there will be no way to prevent escalation.

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- 1. Congress must immediately pass one of the many pending resolutions (e.g. S.39, S.J.Res.23, H.J. Res.14, H.J. Con.33)** requiring President Bush to seek Congressional authorization before attacking Iran. Congressman Conyers' letter, warning of impeachment proceedings if the President acts without Congress' authorization, is a good start.
- 2. Congress should require the Congressional Research Service to provide a complete assessment of the different scenarios of consequences after a U.S. attack on Iran.** The effects on U.S. gasoline and natural gas prices should also be investigated.

FIVE WAYS YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THE NEXT WAR

1 Sign the Peace Action online petition against war with Iran. We will use the growing list of 100,000 names to lobby for peace Capitol Hill.

Go to: www.peace-action.org/Iran/index

2. Support Congressional action to prohibit funding approved by any Congressional act from being used to take military action against Iran without first obtaining explicit authorization from Congress, and clarifying that no previously enacted law authorizes military action against Iran.

3. Support S. Res 39, H. Con. Res. 33 and H.J. Res. 14, requiring Congressional approval for any military action against Iran. Advocate diplomatic and not military engagement with Iran. Demand that the Bush administration commence unconditional diplomatic dialogue with Iran.

4. Urge the immediate reduction of the provocative U.S. Naval presence in the Persian Gulf and of U.S. support for confrontational military and other destabilizing operations in Iranian territory. Deny Congressional support and funding for these activities.

5. Support U.S. efforts to build people-to-people ties between Americans and Iranians, including working with the Iranian community in the United States.

Peace Action's historic focus has been on promoting security through mutual nuclear disarmament, treaties that prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction, reduced national military forces, and international approaches to dispute resolution. Our near-term emphasis is on those measures our nation can quickly take on its own to stop our go-it-alone policies and from which we can get an enormous practical payoff for real security, human rights, cooperative support, and freedom from weapons of mass destruction.

At Peace Action We Believe...

That war is not a suitable response to conflict; that every person has the right to live without the threat from nuclear weapons; and, that the United States has the resources to both protect and provide for its citizens.

For Media Inquires Contact:

Barbra Bearden - Email: bbearden@peace-action.org
(301) 565-4050, ext. 330

Produced by Peace Action Education Fund, 1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1020 •
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: (301) 565-4050 • Fax: (301) 565-0850 • www.peace-action.org