



AN ATTACK ON IRAQ GOES AGAINST AMERICAN VALUES AND INTERESTS

JOIN THE WORLDWIDE DAY OF PROTEST, FEBRUARY 15TH, AT NOON IN RALEIGH

We, the undersigned, oppose a U.S. attack on Iraq as it violates both American values and interests.

This attack is a breach of international law.

International law forbids one nation attacking another except in clear cases of self defense. The United States would be violating this vital law in attacking a nation that has not attacked or even threatened us. Neither oil needs nor fear of a country's possible motives is grounds for an invasion.

The Bush Administration's fears of Iraq appear exaggerated in order to create a motive for war. If we were consistent, our reasons for attacking Iraq would lead us to attack many countries. Both Israel and Turkey, for example, are actively out of compliance with U.N. resolutions. North Korea is developing nuclear weapons, and we are negotiating with them. The Bush Administration is working hard to find links between Iraq and the terrorists of September 11th but have been unable to make a convincing case. A stronger case could easily be made for the involvement of Saudi Arabia with Al-Qaida.

A unilateral attack undercuts American leadership and cooperative spirit.

In attacking Iraq, we would be acting unilaterally, without the support of the United Nations and the world community.

Although no one supports or admires Saddam Hussein, Arab governments in the region have made clear that they do not view Iraq as a current threat and consider a U.S. war on Iraq a greater risk. In November of last year, NATO reaffirmed its support for the United Nations and refused to endorse military action. U.N. Resolution 1441 does not give the Bush Administration the go-ahead to attack and makes it clear that the arms inspectors and the Security Council, respectively, are charged with determining non-compliance and its consequences.

This war ignores the value Americans place on human life.

Although we might like to imagine only Saddam Hussein and his supporters will be hurt, this war will be a further attack on the Iraqi people, and they have already suffered huge losses. An estimated 110,000 Iraqi died as a result of the Gulf War and the U.S. bombing of water supplies. The United Nations estimates that 500,000 have died from the U.S. driven Sanctions and that a similar number could die in an attack. Eric Hoskins of the International Study Team reports that a war could mean death for tens or even hundreds of thousands of Iraq's 13 million children who are already at grave risk.

At the start of the 20th century, 5 percent of World War I casualties were civilians, in the Korea War they were 85 percent, in recent wars that number has climbed to over 90 percent. This is a fact of modern warfare that we cannot hide from. An attack on Iraq is an attack on the people of Iraq, not just Saddam Hussein's government and military. As we weigh the reasons given for war, we need to consider the suffering to Iraqi and American families this war will bring.

Violence should be a last resort.

There are non military solutions that are working and will work more effectively than war. We need to allow Hans Blix and the UN inspection team time to complete their work. UN inspections have successfully dismantled the vast majority of Iraq's military. Former Marine and UN weapons inspector, Scott Ritter, states that Iraq represents no military threat.

We can strengthen the sanctions against any military trade with Iraq and continue to contain Saddam Hussein's government if we work with and not against the international community.

We urge all members of the Elon Community who oppose this war to let your Representatives, Senators and the President know of your doubts and opposition.

We urge you to join others in North Carolina in protest. Come to Raleigh on the Worldwide Day of Action. The rally and march begins at noon this Saturday, Feb. 15, at the State Capitol in Raleigh.

Aqueil Ahmad	Kevin Boyle	Jodi Emond	Byung Lee	Jim Pickens	Sandy Smith-Nonini	Janet Warman
Robert Anderson	Steve Braye	Justin Estes	Deborah Long	Jeff Pugh	Bird Stasz	Jane Wellford
Andy Angyal	Jim Brown	Martin Fowler	Janet MacFall	Doug Redington	Carolyn Stuart	Anthony Weston
Tom Arcaro	Pamela Brumbaugh	Russell Gill	Richard McBride	Melinda Rice	Gregg Sullivan	Rudy Zarzar
Jim Barbour	Ann Cahill	Ken Hassell	Eileen Morales	Lela Faye Rich	John Sullivan	
Larry Basirico	Anne Cassebaum	Judy Henricks	Christine Nemcik	Bill Rich	George Taylor	
Nim Batchelor	Brian Digre	Maureen Ihrle	George Padgett	Father John Ruffo	Carole Troxler	
Jim Bissett	Jim Donathan	Martin Kamela	Val Padgett	Bea Sanford	Christopher Troxler	
Lamar Bland	Linda Dunn	Cassie Kircher	Jana Lynn Patterson	Mike Sanford	Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler	
Anne Bolin	John Duvall	Laurin Kier	Rebecca Peters	Martha Smith	Debby Wall	