

clamor COMMUNIQUE #16

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President George W. Bush
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500



Dear President Bush:

I write to ask that you lead the United States away from employing a policy of pre-emptive strikes against nations we perceive as enemies. I ask that you employ diplomacy as well as non-violent direct action toward making peace with Iraq no unlike you are choosing to do with North Korea. I ask that we only use force when absolutely necessary, when an attack on our soil from another is imminent. I hope that you would consider these requests when establishing all future domestic and international policy.

These may be unorthodox requests to make of the President of the United States, the world's self-styled model democracy and super-sized super power, or just naive when one recognizes that realpolitik has guided U.S. policy making for decades. Yet violence is only an immediate solution to short term goals. The majority of Americans will gain little from devastating a country that has already been devastated by more than ten years of economic sanctions and bombings as well as being lead by a corrupt menacing dictator.

Violence merely begets violence, never long-term equity among all living beings on earth. Instead of promoting life violence shortens it, quickens our demise. Realpolitik just gets us into trouble trying to

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contain problems that we originally fomented. As is well documented, the menacing dictator of Iraq so feared today, was supplied with chemicals and weapons by the U.S. in the early 1980s when it was politically advantageous for us to have him kill Iranians.

Over the last weekend in Washington, DC, it is estimated that between 100,000 and 200,000 U.S. citizens gathered to request that you explore alternatives to war as a method to promote democracy and human rights. Others also gathered in Alaska and San Francisco asking for similar alternatives to war, ones supported by the majority of U.S. citizens, as well as our international neighbors. I hope you will thoughtfully consider the will of these citizens. I fear that, too often, the will of a powerful minority has been more influential on U.S. policy, for example, military hardware suppliers. Simply, if bombs are made they must be dropped. Yet, what is good for a military hardware supplier may not be good for America.

We have suffered many grave tragedies in the year since the destruction of the World Trade Center and the death of more than 2,000 U.S. citizens that illustrate clearly the futility of violence. As a New York City artist, resident, and small business person whose studio is only 10 blocks north of where the Twin Towers once stood I suffered the horrible consequences of that fateful morning. Yet I've opposed the realpolitik retaliation we took upon Afghanistan all along. It has been estimated that between 3,000 and 20,000 Afghans have died during or as a result of the War on Terrorism. However, our goal of detaining Osama Bin Laden has not been achieved. It remains to be seen if the new government will be any more democratic than the Taliban.

Three years ago I was sent the following list of countries that the U.S. has bombed since the end of World War II: China 1945-46; Korea 1950-53; China 1950-53; Guatemala 1954; Indonesia 1958; Cuba 1959-60; Guatemala 1960; Congo 1964; Peru 1965; Laos 1964-73; Vietnam 1961-73; Cambodia 1969-70; Guatemala 1967-69; Grenada 1983; Libya 1986; El Salvador 1980s; Nicaragua 1980s; Panama 1980s; Iraq 1991-1999; Sudan 1998; Afghanistan 1998; Yugoslavia 1999. It deserves a slight revision:

Afghanistan 2001-2002; Iraq 1999-2002. Any more we can add? Perhaps, Colombia? I believe this list was originally published as a Harper's Index; it deserves republishing to emphasize once again the futility of violence. Why? Not once did any of these bombings, resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths, help to install and maintain a democratic government respectful of human rights.

Finally, as a U.S. citizen who believes in democracy, I ask that if you are going to bring us to war with another nation please make the goals clear. How will democracy and human rights be achieved by our actions? Our scorecard on military actions for these goals does not bode well.

There must be alternatives, please listen to those offered by those citizens who exercised democracy this past weekend in Washington, DC as well as in other cities across the U.S.

Thank you for considering my requests and I hope that you will do everything in your power to avoid the deaths of any more people. I also offer my condolences to you, your administration, those in all branches of government, and all U.S. citizens, as we mourn the untimely death of the active and progressive Senator Paul Wellstone as well as his wife, daughter, and several members of his staff.

Regards,

Greg Fuchs 🇺🇸