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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

**Committees:**  
Government Reform  
Education  
and the  
Workforce

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## **Statement of Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich**

Unilateral military action by the United States against Iraq is unjustified, unwarranted and illegal. The Administration has failed to make that case that Iraq poses an imminent or immediate threat to the United States. There is no credible evidence linking Iraq to 9/11. There is no credible evidence linking Iraq to Al-Queda. Nor is there any credible evidence of Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction, their capability, or their intent to deliver such weapons.

If the United States proceeds with a first strike policy, then we will have taken upon our nation an historic burden of committing a violation of international law, marking the United States, a nation whose people have traditionally defended democracy as aggressors. We would then forfeit any moral high ground we could hope to hold.

We need a comprehensive solution to the crisis in Iraq. The solution should involve the world community through the United Nations. We need to allow inspections to take their course. Congress must not vote to authorize the use of force against Iraq before inspectors have done their job.

We know that each day the Administration receives a daily threat assessment. But, it is not Iraq that is the true threat to the citizens of this nation. The true and immediate threats are the million of Americans who are suffering inadequate healthcare, the high cost of prescription drugs, the ravages of unemployment, the slowdown of the economy, and the devastating effects of corporate fraud. Therein is the immediate threat to America's security. Iraq is a handy diversion.

The United States must recommit ourselves to the UN charter, which is the framework for international order. We have a right and a duty to defend ourselves. We also have an obligation to defend international law. We can accomplish both without going to war with Iraq.