

To Put an End to War

by Lucy Webster

[Back to Previous Page](#)

Military triumph is not enough to win. While people throughout the world are relieved that there has been regime change in Iraq, large minorities in the United States and large majorities elsewhere are disturbed by the US military victory.

What has been done to international law and the sovereign responsibilities of states to protect their citizens? Can any country attacked by terrorists now attack any country that might help terrorists in the future? Clearly not. Only the United States with its vast military power and its claim to bring democracy to all can push its power in this way.

Can one be surprised that other nations resent such US action?

Above all people do and should resent the US use of its muscle without its taking real responsibility. How could the US military not have planned for the need to bring water and order to conquered cities?

But the main duty of a superpower that claims leadership is to build an agenda that will bring others into its program for the world.

The United States has the power to lead, but must learn to do so in multilateral mode; anything else simply will not work. A program to strengthen, not weaken, cooperation is needed.

Peace with gross injustice as in Saddam's Iraq is not acceptable, and yet war means pain and vast injustice. We need a way to assert change for human rights without war, and several of the components of such a reality are partly in place, with relatively few additional elements required:

The UN needs a directly recruited military force reporting to the Secretary General so that UN Marshals sent to apprehend a future Osama Bin Laden or a Saddam Hussein could do their job under the International Criminal Court rules.

- The Security Council must dare to challenge the sovereignty of states that abrogate their sovereign responsibility by the systematic, gross abuse of their citizens.
- The UN needs a directly recruited military force reporting to the Secretary General so that UN Marshals sent to apprehend a future Osama Bin Laden or a Saddam Hussein could do their job under the International Criminal Court rules.
- Citizens and communities throughout the world need to know their rights so NGO networks can alert the Security Council to incursions at an early stage.

Back to top

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