



Repeal-AUMF.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

5TH ANNIVERSARY CALLS FOR REPEAL OF “FLAWED” LEGISLATION
Group Calls Sept. 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force Unconstitutional

Activist group Repeal AUMF is calling for Congress to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) which was signed into law five years ago on September 18, 2001. Repeal AUMF has faxed to district offices of members of both the Senate and the House a draft resolution proposal, titled the “Constitutional Protection Act”, which includes a statement that AUMF is “found to be unconstitutional on its face”.

“Passing this legislation was a terrible mistake, both on principle and in application,” said Repeal AUMF spokesperson Robert Link. “Where the Constitution refers to war it clearly means 'armed conflict between nations.' But by the reasoning used to give war powers to this administration we should have given the same powers to Lyndon Johnson to pursue the 'war' on poverty; poverty kills more people. As if that wasn't bad enough, this administration has, under cover of AUMF, failed to apprehend the person who ordered the devastating attacks of September 11, 2001, has squandered the international good will we enjoyed as a nation in the immediate aftermath of those attacks, and has aggressively undermined protections created 30 years ago when we learned how the intelligence community acts to silence political dissent and stifle public discourse.”

AUMF, the Authorization for Use of Military Force was passed one week after the attacks of September 11, 2001, with only one dissenting vote. AUMF grants to the President authorization “to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons *he determines*...in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism.”(emphasis added) But some critics, including groups like Repeal AUMF, argue that “international terrorism” cannot be effectively fought with the methods of war. The administration and its supporters contend that national security concerns preclude treating the September 11 perpetrators simply as criminals. But critics point to the failure of military action in Afghanistan and Iraq to bring Osama bin Laden to justice, and contrast those results with the recent foiled “liquid explosives plot” in England, a plot exposed by British police work rather than the British or American military action.

Repeal AUMF states its aims as seeing AUMF either repealed by Congress or struck down by the courts. “We must, while bringing to justice the people who attacked us, protect and adhere to the principles on which our nation was founded,” says Link. “Betraying those principles, such as the principle of separation of powers, basically does the terrorist's job for them.”

Repeal AUMF will track responses from Congress members to its draft resolution proposal at <http://repeal-aumf.org/draft.php>.

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