

world's oil passes every day.

It is precisely because of the threat of a U.S. war against Iran – **a preventive war that would be illegal under international law, in violation of the UN Charter and the U.S. Constitution, and devastating to regional as well as U.S. security** – that cities around the country are moving now to quell the bellicose rhetoric. As the ongoing war in Iraq demonstrates, the White House has already shown itself reckless, willing to choose war when war was not required, holding itself above the requirements of international law, and holding the American people and Congress in utter contempt. So, cities around the country, as well as counties, states, and institutions across our nation, are moving to end the war in Iraq and to prevent a new war in Iran ([www.citiesforpeace.org](http://www.citiesforpeace.org)).

**A U.S. “surgical” strike in Iran would be an act of war.** Testifying in front of the Chicago City Council, one of us reminded the aldermen and alderwomen that such an attack would inflame anti-American sentiment throughout the Muslim world. Already, according to a recent Arab Public Opinion poll conducted by the University of Maryland, 83 percent of those polled in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates hold an unfavorable view of the United States. Increasing that anti-American sentiment does precious little to enhance U.S. interests in the Middle East and throughout the world, and in fact escalates the threat to the security of all Americans—in Chicago and beyond.

The U.S. needs to open negotiations with Iran on all the issues dividing our two nations: nuclear weapons (including our own), intervention in Iraq (ours and theirs), support

for organizations threatening terror or other attacks against each other (ours and theirs), security guarantees (ours and theirs), and ultimately the resumption of normal diplomatic and trade ties between the U.S. and Iran.

A U.S. military strike could launch a war. It would be devastating not only for the 70 million Iranians, but for Israel, for U.S. troops in the region, and for any hope of peace in the world. We need diplomacy, Mayor Daley, not more war.

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*Phyllis Bennis is a Fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies and lead author of IPS's "Iran in the Crosshairs: How to Prevent Washington's Next War." Farrah Hassen is the Newman Fellow at IPS, and testified before the Chicago City Council.*

Local contact:

**8<sup>th</sup> Day Center for Justice**  
A Catholic Faith-based NGO for  
Social Change



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## TELL MAYOR DALEY AND THE CITY COUNCIL: “DON’T IRAQ IRAN”

On May 14, Mayor Daley used his political clout to ensure that the City Council did not consider a resolution opposing a Bush Administration attack on Iran. Two allies of



the mayor employed a parliamentary maneuver to table the resolution, presumable until the Council's June meeting. Alderperson Joe Moore, the primary sponsor of the resolution, expected it to pass the vote of the Council. The day before, it cleared the Council's Human Relations Committee.

Daley blocked the resolution, despite the fact that several US cities have already

passed such a resolution, and despite the fact that in 2002, under the same Mayor Daley, Chicago passed a resolution against attacking Iraq. Proponents of the current resolution are disappointed that the Mayor aligned himself with the Bush/Cheney foreign policy which threatens a wider war in the Middle East.

*“It’s disappointing that Mayor Daley used Chicago politics-as-usual to prevent a Council vote on a matter of urgent concern, another imminent war,”* said Michael Lynn, a member of the No War on Iran Coalition.

On Wed, June 11, Daley’s clout may again stop the City Council from considering this resolution **unless we pressure him and our alderpersons to take a stand.** It’s important for you to know that the US Conference of Mayors, at their June 20-24 meeting in Miami, will consider a Resolution in Opposition to War with Iran, which closely resembles the Chicago resolution.

To see the Chicago Resolution, visit <http://www.nowaroniran-chicago.org/resolution/resolution.htm>

To see the resolution for the Conference of Mayors, visit <http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/newsroom/blog/?p=380>

## **ACTION**

1. Contact Mayor Daley at 312-744-3300 and encourage him to support the City

Council resolution against attacking Iran. Please do so even if you are not a Chicago resident.

2. Contact your Alderperson. If you do not know the name or contact info for your Alderperson, you may call 311 and the operator will provide you with this information.

Or, go to <http://egov.cityofchicago.org/city/webportal/home.do>

and click on <Your Government>

and then <Your Ward and Alderman>

and, finally, <Ward and Alderman List>

## ***For further background, read the following article***

### **WHY MAYOR DALEY IS WRONG ABOUT IRAN**

Phyllis Bennis and Farrah Hassen, 05/24/08

Last week one of us served as an expert witness before the Chicago City Council during its debate on a resolution opposing a U.S. military strike on Iran, brought to the Council by Chicago’s No War on Iran Coalition. In his usual direct political manner, Chicago Mayor Daley had his supporters on the council stall the vote on the resolution, saying he was worried it would tie the hands of the next president. Mayor Daley was quoted in the Chicago Sun-Times explaining his opposition. “If Iran attacks Israel,” he asked rhetorically, “we should sit back and not do

anything? They haven’t attacked us, [but] they can attack everyone else? I have real problems with that.”

Mayor Daley is wrong. The point of a resolution against a U.S. military strike on Iran – a position that has already been embraced by more than 10 cities across this country – is precisely because such a strike makes the danger of war more likely, not less. Opposing a military response does not mean we “sit back and not do anything.” To the contrary, it means that the real possibilities for avoiding war – diplomacy, multilateralism, genuine engagement, and more diplomacy – move to the front burner of U.S. policy.

In December 2007 the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) was made public. This document, representing the consensus view of all sixteen U.S. intelligence agencies, was clear: Iran does not have a nuclear weapon, it does not have a viable nuclear weapons program, and it is not at all clear that it even wants such a program. And yet the White House continued to ratchet up its rhetoric against Iran, in a propaganda scenario frighteningly reminiscent of the run-up to the illegal 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Mayor Daley’s questioning of Iran attacking **Israel—the only country in the Middle East that actually does possess a nuclear weapon**—conveniently ignores the larger point of the resolution presented before the City Council. It is in all of Iran’s neighbors’ best interests, including Israel’s, to prevent an unprovoked, unnecessary new war in the region. In the event of a U.S. military strike, Iran could retaliate, threatening to attack U.S. troops in Iraq or Israel itself, or shutting the Strait of Hormuz through which 45% of the