

American Congress, "The Poster Child for Cowardice"

by Sarah Lazare via sal - CommonDreams Friday, Jun 5 2015, 12:55am

international / prose / post

The Corporate captured American Congress, the lawmaking body of government, has been labelled as "the poster child for cowardice" for failing to take responsibility for perpetual war. The reason is obvious, American politics is run by money, lots of it, and members of Congress fear for their positions if they oppose the powerful techno-weapons corporations. It all translates to a non-representative corporate controlled government -- democracy and representative government is a sorry joke in the USA, gutless politicians have been called to account and given the opportunity to make moral representative decisions rather than financially partial decisions for their actions and particularly their non-actions.



The Corporate captured American Congress

Will Congress Finally Be Forced to Debate Perpetual War?

A small group of bipartisan congressional lawmakers on Thursday introduced legislation calling for the withdrawal of the U.S. military from Iraq and Syria, in a surprise move that could, for the first time, force a real debate on the 10-month-old war on ISIS.

Reps. Jim McGovern (D-Mass.), Walter Jones (R-N.C.), and Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) invoked the War Powers Resolution when introducing the [legislation](#), which directs President Barack Obama "to remove United States Armed Forces deployed to Iraq or Syria on or after August 7, 2014" within 30 days or by the end of the year.

Upon bringing the bill to the House floor, McGovern [rebuked](#) Congress as "the poster child for cowardice."

"This House appears to have no problem sending our uniformed men and women into harm's way," he [said](#). "It appears to have no problem spending billions of dollars for the arms, equipment and airpower to carry out these wars. But it just can't bring itself to step up to the plate and take responsibility for these wars."

Thanks to the proposed legislation, lawmakers might not be able to avoid debate on the war forever—or even for the rest of June.

As Huffington Post reporter Jennifer Bendery [explains](#), now that McGovern introduced the legislation, "he has to wait 15 calendar days for the House Foreign Affairs Committee to act, and if it does nothing, and if House leaders do nothing, the resolution automatically heads to the House floor and anyone can bring it up for a debate."

Obama has so far waged the war without any congressional authorization under the [widely contested](#) claim that his authority to do so is covered by the expansively interpreted 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force, passed in the wake of the September 11th attacks.

After his February request for broad war-making powers in the war on ISIS [floundered](#) in Congress, Obama continued to claim authority, and lawmakers appeared unwilling to challenge this.

This silence has been accompanied by the Pentagon's repeated refusal to disclose basic information about the war, including [who has been killed](#) in the more than 4,000 U.S. coalition [air bombardments](#). Despite numerous reports of civilian killings in Iraq and Syria, the Pentagon has [only admitted](#) to "likely" killing two children in Syria, and that admission came six months after the deadly attack.

For analysts and organizers who hold there is no U.S. military solution to ISIS, the announcement came as a welcome change from the congressional silence on the military campaign, despite the war's ever-broadening scope.

Phyllis Bennis, senior fellow at Institute for Policy Studies, told Common Dreams that, even though the legislation is unlikely to pass, "having these kinds of resolutions on the table is crucial to make it clear that there is no 'speaking with one voice' to support the president and support these wars. The U.S. is not united behind these wars, and other members of Congress ignore this at their peril."

Stephen Miles of advocacy organization Win Without War told Common Dreams that, given the scale of destruction and loss, Congress's avoidance of debate is morally unacceptable. "If Members of Congress don't want to take a position on this war, they have no right to ask anyone to risk their lives for it," he said.

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