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CitizenLetter

An urgent message from a concerned citizen.

January 12, 2008

Rep. Joe Knollenberg
U.S. House of Representatives
2349 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Rep. Joe Knollenberg,

I am writing to urge you to support the Stop Outsourcing Security Act and halt President Bush's use of mercenaries to fight his wars.

Bush has severely overextended our military. Knowing that a draft would further incite public opposition to his campaigns, he has turned to hired guns, who follow their own rules.

Guards employed by Blackwater used a chemical gas to clear traffic in Baghdad. As a result, our own troops were incapacitated by a tactic that U.S. soliders can't even use without high-level approval. Last September, a convoy of Blackwater soldiers rolled into a Baghdad public square and spent 15 minutes shooting into the crowd. Seventeen bystanders were killed.

There are now thousands of such private soldiers in Iraq. They work outside Army regulations. Their reckless and violent behavior incurs the hatred of Iraqis and exposes U.S. soldiers to retaliation. And they charge billions of dollars to taxpayers, with little accountability.

The Stop Outsourcing Security Act would put a halt to the problem, ending the use of mercenaries like Blackwater by June 2009. I urge you to support it. Please tell me how you intend to address this issue.

Sincerely,

Raymond D Travis

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