

Iraq Resolution Debate

Their Terms or Ours?

February 13, 2007

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to urge you not to debate the Democratic Iraq resolution on their terms, but rather on ours.

Democrats want to force us to focus on defending the surge, making the case that it will work and explaining why the President's new Iraq policy is different from prior efforts and therefore justified.

We urge you to instead broaden the debate to the threat posed to Americans, the world, and all "unbelievers" by radical Islamists. We would further urge you to join us in educating the American people about the views of radical Islamists and the consequences of not defeating radical Islam in Iraq.

The debate should not be about the surge or its details. This debate should not even be about the Iraq war to date, mistakes that have been made, or whether we can, or cannot, win militarily. If we let Democrats force us into a debate on the surge or the current situation in Iraq, we lose.

Rather, the debate must be about the global threat of the radical Islamist movement. No radical Islamist leader, including Osama bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahari, and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, has ever claimed that the goal of radical Islam is Iraq alone or if they succeed in Iraq this war against us would end. In fact, Robert Kagen recently wrote a piece for the *Washington Post* entitled "Grand Delusion" noting many politicians' desire to wish the war away. He notes that those who call for an end to the war don't want to talk about the fact that the war in Iraq and in the region will not end, but will only grow more dangerous if and when we walk away.

Thanks to the liberal mainstream media, Americans fully understand the consequences of continuing our efforts in Iraq – both in American lives and dollars. The American people do not understand the consequences of abandoning that effort or the extreme views, goals, and intentions of the radical Islamist movement that is fueling the war in Iraq and the attacks on westerners and unbelievers throughout the world.

The attached map and list of some of the attacks worldwide since 2002 illustrates the global nature of this threat.

Join us in asking our Democratic colleagues the essential question: If we do not defeat radical Islam in Iraq, then where will we do so?

We will send further information in the coming days. However, should your staff require further details, please have them contact Eric V. Schlecht at 5-3361 to get these insightful books: "Knowing the Enemy" by Mary Habeck and "America Alone" by Mark Steyn.

Sincerely,


John Shadegg
Member of Congress


Pete Hoekstra
Member of Congress

Some Major Attacks by Radical Islamists Since 2002

July 11, 2006 – Mumbai, India. Commuter train bombed, killing at least 200.

November 9, 2005 – Amman, Jordan. Suicide bombers hit 3 American hotels, killing 57.

October 26, 2005 – Hadera, Israel. Falafal stand bombing kills 7.

July 7, 2005 – London, England. Transit bombings leave 56 dead and 700 injured.

April 7, 2005 – Cairo, Egypt. Bombing at Kahn al Khalili market kills 20.

December 12, 2004 – General Santos, Philippines. Christmas market bombed killing 15.

December 6, 2004 – Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Terrorist storm U.S. consulate, killing 5.

September 9, 2004 – Jakarta, Indonesia. Australian embassy bombed, killing 8.

September 3, 2004 – North Ossetia, Russia. School hostage crisis leaves 344 dead.

March 11, 2004 – Madrid, Spain. Train bombings kill 191, injure 1,500.

November 15, 2003 -- Istanbul, Turkey. Bombings kill 53, wound 750.

October 15, 2003 – Gaza Strip. Bomb targets U.S. envoy, killing 3.

August 5, 2003 – Jakarta, Indonesia. Marriot bombed killing 13.

May 16, 2003 – Casablanca, Morocco. Bombers kill 41, injure 100.

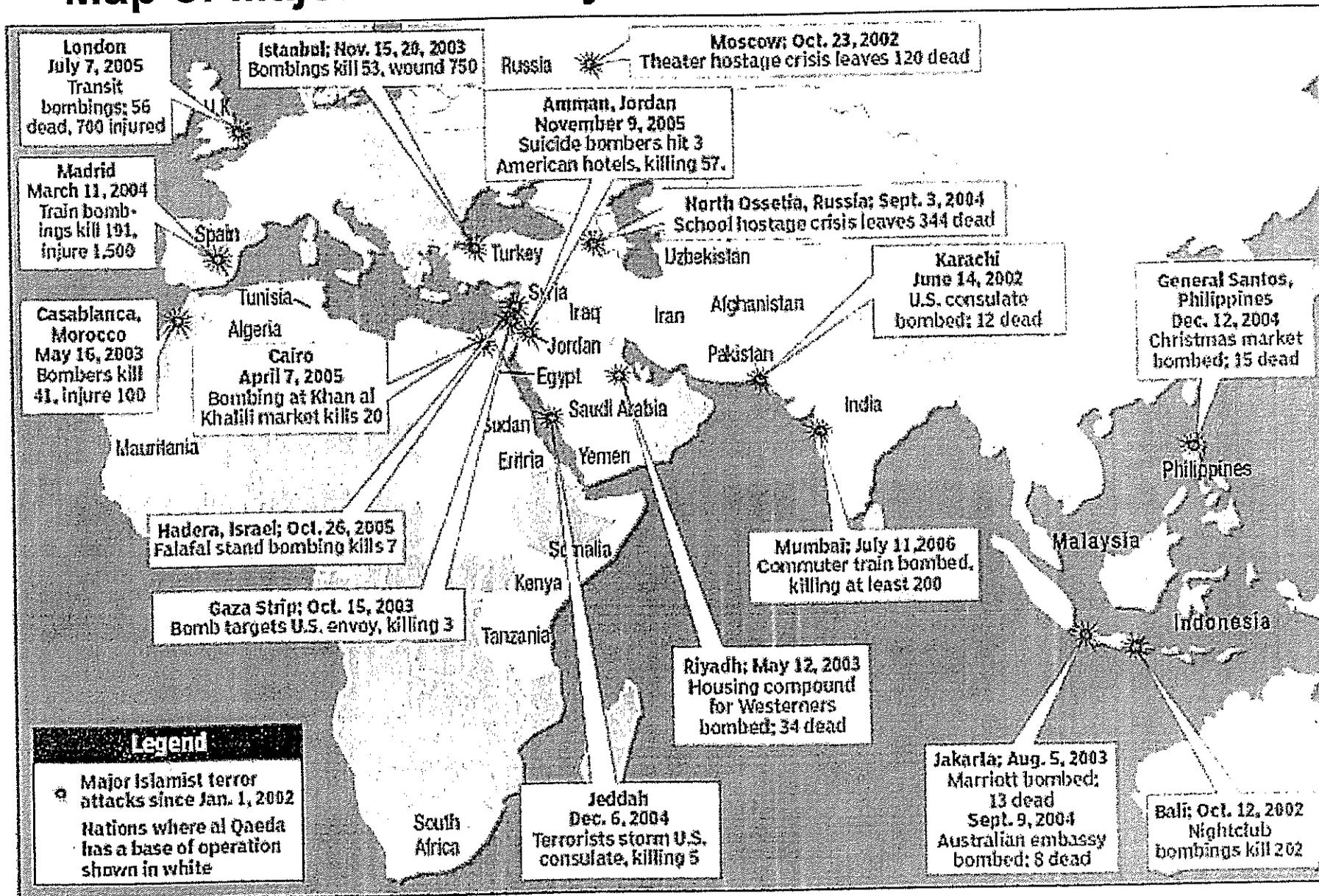
May 12, 2003 – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Housing compound for westerners bombed; 34 dead.

October 23, 2002 – Moscow, Russia. Theater hostage crisis leaves 120 dead.

October 12, 2002 – Bali, Indonesia. Nightclub bombings kill 202.

June 14, 2002 – Karachi, Pakistan. U.S. consulate bombed; 12 dead.

Map of Major Attacks by Radical Islamists Since 2002



Source: The New York Post, November 5, 2006