

Yesterday, President Obama agreed yesterday to seek congressional approval for a strike on Syria. The bad news is that in the same breath he continued to assert that he has the authority to do so regardless of what Congress says.

This is totally outrageous and unacceptable, and we don't care how many Nobel Peace Prizes he's got.

It is still not absolutely proven who is responsible for the release of chemical weapons in Syria. One report suggests that it might actually be the "rebels" who had the nerve gas, which was then released when struck by a Syrian government rocket, or even by accident. To be clear, we are NOT saying that nothing should be done in response. What we are saying is we must be 100% certain of all the facts before anybody starts firing off cruise missiles.

But more to the most important point, in the new authorization for military force measure proposed by the White House much lip service is given to previous UN resolutions, international norms, and the like. So why is it that not a SINGLE other country in the world is interested in joining us in this rash assault? Maybe it's because the last time we made such a case for war it turned out to be all lies, all of it.

Nobody else is going to believe a single word we say until the UN inspectors have the time to investigate, deliberate and render their own verdict. And if any action is to be taken, it will lead to nothing but greater evil unless there is a WORLD consensus about what that action should be. That can properly only come from the United Nations, not from some coalition of the cronies, and we haven't got even one of those left right now.

Until then we say absolutely NO military action by the US acting alone.

And Congress must further expressly repudiate President Obama's assertion that he personally can act unilaterally as the world's executioner-in-chief. In particular, the Authorization to Use Military Force of 2001, from which he claims some purported authority, must be IMMEDIATELY REPEALED.

That's what Congress needs to do next week instead of writing yet another authoritarian blank check.