

Secretary of State John Kerry has been out there all week trying to conflate the will of the international community with that of the president alone, or with the possible support of Congress. No such consent can be given, because Congress does not have the authority to, and under no circumstance can it, appoint the president as executioner for the whole rest of the world.

Moreover, even assuming that Assad is personally responsible for ordering the use of chemical weapons, and even presuming he should be ultimately sentenced to death by some international tribunal of the future for that cause, a massive missile attack on Syria now would just kill a lot of OTHER people who are innocent, including civilians. Those are the dead bodies they will not show us pictures of, which will be many more than those they are using to try to manipulate public opinion and Congress now.

After all the preaching we have heard coming out of the White House this week about "international norms," nothing would violate those norms more than a unilateral US strike. To do so would forever discredit the whole concept of international law, and would counter-productively endorse the idea of other countries taking their own solo "enforcement" actions anytime they please as well.

The fact remains that we have absolutely no right to take international law into our own hands.