



UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

...

An independent institution established by Congress to strengthen the nation's capacity
to promote peaceful resolution to international conflicts

Praise for the United States Institute of Peace

The Institute has garnered support from a full range of people from across the spectrum, across the political aisle, and around the world – from senior officials and citizens; from government agencies to non-governmental organizations. We are deeply grateful to all the letters we have received over time, and particularly the expressions of support in the wake of last week's House vote to eliminate us:

"I would like to underscore the importance of the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) to the missions the United States is currently pursuing in Iraq and Afghanistan...I have been impressed with USIP's on-the-ground peacebuilding efforts...USIP's experience working closely with the U.S. military will be a great asset in developing stronger unity of effort between civilian and military elements of government."

--General David H. Petraeus, U.S. Central Command

"At a time when our country is grappling with budgetary challenges, the miniscule budget of the Institute – less than one-tenth of one percent of the State Department appropriation – represents a highly effective investment in our foreign policy and national security capabilities."

--George P. Shultz, Former Secretary of State

"I was the battalion commander that worked with you in Mahmoudiya, Iraq 2007-2008. Your initiatives helped save the lives of my guys, and gave us other alternatives in nonviolent conflict resolution. Again, thank you."

--William H. Zemp, Senior Fellow in the State Department's Bureau
of Political-Military Affairs

“Our nation is at war. Now is not the time to cut international affairs institutions like the United States Institute of Peace, which I know well and support fully.”

--Frank Carlucci, Former Secretary of Defense

“The U.S. government must have options for resolving international conflict other than military action. USIP – created by Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan – is the only independent U.S. government agency that is dedicated solely to conflict prevention and resolution.”

--Congressman John Lewis (D-GA)

“With conflicts continuing around the globe, the Institute’s expertise and independence is an important resource for both the Secretary of State and the Department of Defense to utilize in protecting our national security and promoting our values of liberty and democracy.”

--Congresswoman Kay Granger (R-TX)

“The elimination of USIP would have strong, adverse impact on America’s national security interests. USIP is an important national security actor...USIP is the critical bridge between governmental and non-governmental actors to promote peace in volatile conflicts.”

--Congressman Donald M. Payne (D-NJ)

“When I first came to Fort Leavenworth after departing Iraq, your organization was one of the first I chose to visit to gain insights on the complex barriers confronting the ability of the agencies and departments of the USG to work together.”

--Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen, Jr., US Army Commanding

“As we navigate the vagaries of the 21st century, the Navy-USIP partnership has never been more critical. I am grateful USIP remains a reliable and enduring partner of the United States Navy. Your distinctive standing as an independent entity that I can readily turn to for support and guidance is invaluable. I look forward to our future collaboration.”

--Admiral G. Roughead, United States Navy, Chief of Naval Operations

“The notion that Congress would seek to eliminate funding for the United States Institute of Peace is astounding and painful to our leadership in international affairs and to the cause of peace.”

--Father Ted Hesburgh, President Emeritus, University of Notre Dame

And from USIP’s Groundbreaking Ceremony:

“As the Institute leadership, you have demonstrated a remarkable ability to adapt to new challenges confronting Americans...You are an innovative institution that is helping change for the better the way we deal with the world.”

--President George W. Bush

“The U.S. Institute of Peace stands as a monument to those who have dedicated their lives to preventing and resolving conflict.”

--President Jimmy Carter

“...The real differences that now shape our world are not ethnic or religious; the dividing line today is between those who embrace peace and those who would destroy it; between those who look to the future and those who are locked in the past; and between those who open their arms and those who still clench their fists. The right side – the only side – of this line is the side of peace.”

--President William Jefferson Clinton