



# FIGHT *The* SMEARS

## **BI-PARTISAN GROUP OF LEGISLATORS DENOUNCES FALSE IRAQ ACCUSATION**

Deceptive reports that Barack urged Iraqi leaders to delay an agreement with President Bush during a meeting back in July are completely false.

Members from both parties who attended the meeting with Barack have denounced this ridiculous attack calling it “absolutely not true:”

... in addition to Obama and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, this July meeting was also attended by Bush administration officials such as U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker and the Baghdad embassy’s Legislative Affairs advisor Rich Haughton, as well as a Republican senator, Chuck Hagel of Nebraska. Attendees of the meeting back Obama’s account, including not just Sen. Jack Reed, D-RI, but Hagel, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staffers from both parties. Officials of the Bush administration who were briefed on the meeting by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad also support Obama’s account and dispute the Post story and McCain attack. The Post story is ‘absolutely not true,’ Hagel spokesman Mike Buttry told ABC News.

The Bush Administration has also fact-checked the inaccurate allegations:

A Bush administration official with knowledge of the meeting says that during the meeting Obama stressed to Maliki that he would not interfere with President Bush’s negotiations concerning the US troop presence in Iraq, and that he supports the Bush administration’s position on the need to negotiate as soon as possible the Status of Forces Agreement, which deals with among other matters US troops having immunity from local prosecution.

And most recently, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari set the record straight:

Obama “never, ever discouraged us not to sign the agreement,” Zebari said. “I think this was misrepresented, and I have clarified this case in a number of interviews back in the United States recently.”

Barack’s position is clear: any Strategic Framework Agreement (SFA) addressing the long-term presence of our troops in Iraq must be reviewed by the Congress — it can’t simply be agreed to by the Administration. A Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) is a separate issue and Barack believes that the SOFA must be negotiated swiftly to include immunity for US troops.

Barack will give our military commanders a new mission in Iraq: ending this war responsibly.

This ridiculous attack has been disputed time and again. Make sure that anyone who has seen this smear sees this site.

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