

# THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## Letters blog: Limit presidential war powers

2011-07-07 14:15:38



-HUNTINGTON BEACH, **Ron Higby**: Since the advent of the nuclear age, Congress has delegated more and more responsibility under the War Powers Act to the president. Legitimate concerns are arising that President Barack Obama exceeds constitutional limitations by military bombings on the government of Libya, which is involved in a civil war. Obama said that we should send out a message to Moammar Gadhafi "and give his people a chance to live their lives without fear." He derides congressional concerns as "a lot of fuss about politics" [News, June 30].

Separately, Cato Institute's Stanley Kober explains the background and intentions respecting war powers: "Congress was given the power to declare war, while the president was designated as the commander in chief of the armed forces" [["War power and our republic," Opinion, June 30](#)]. Congress must decide when and whether to risk American lives and, importantly, how to pay for a war, not the president.

Going to war to allow a foreign people to live their lives without fear is not the same as defending against an attack upon American national interests. Too many voters have been deluded into accepting that this president understands what that means in terms of present as well as future American liberties.

### Death penalty Bill

-ANAHEIM, **Kerry Condon, Anaheim Police Association President**: I agree that the California Death Penalty system is broken and reform is needed [["Bill would abolish the death penalty in California," OC Watchdog, July 6](#)]. I also believe that abolishing the death penalty in [Senate Bill 490](#) for financial reasons alone is foolish and irresponsible. Death penalty reform is needed to protect California citizens, not to balance the state's budget. There still must be an ultimate penalty for those with blatant disregard for human life who have nothing to lose if they keep killing.

As a law-enforcement officer, there are several reasons why I believe abolishing the death penalty is wrong. Two of them are:

If an inmate is imprisoned and the sentence is "life with out possibility of parole," what consequences are there if he or she decides to murder a prison guard or other inmate? If all he or she faces is another life without the possibility of parole sentence, there is nothing to lose.

If murdering a police officer is not a mandatory death penalty crime, what does a criminal have to lose when trying to escape capture from a crime that mandates life with out the possibility of parole? Nothing.

Abolishing the death penalty creates additional unsafe working conditions for public safety officers and removes the ultimate sentence for those who have no respect for life.

Senate Bill 490 is wrong and the only people who benefit from it are the most dangerous criminal element in this state.

### Biden's talking points

-CORONA, **Tim I. Martin**: Vice President Joe Biden recently told the Teamsters "Any of you guys vote

Republican... You're on your own, Jack." Isn't our vice president (in Las Vegas on taxpayer dollars) supposed to represent all of us?

**MORE LETTERS ON LIBYA WAR:**

[rssfeedme cat="letters" feedpath="/tag/LIBYA-WAR/feed/" max="10"]

**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER** [@OCRegLetters](#)

**HOW DO I GET PUBLISHED?** [CLICK HERE FOR WRITING TIPS FROM THE LETTERS EDITOR](#)

**WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Letters to the Editor: E-mail to [letters@ocreger.com](mailto:letters@ocreger.com). Please provide your name, city and telephone number (telephone numbers will not be published). Letters of about 200 words or videos of 30-seconds each will be given preference. Letters will be edited for length, grammar and clarity.

© Copyright 2011 Freedom Communications. All Rights Reserved.  
[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Site Map](#)