Subject: Re: United States using chemical weapons in Iraq? Posted by NeoSaber on Sun, 04 Dec 2005 21:37:24 GMT

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Iraq was still in breach though, even if the UN was going to let it slide one last time. The origin of our disagreement here is who was at fault for the present situation, Saddam or America. The UN only said Iraq had breached the resolutions, even if given one last chance. The US was never declared in breach as far as I'm aware. So technically/legally the US is not at fault for what happened, since the UN has yet to pass a resolution declaring the US at fault for breaching paragraph 2 of resolution 1441.

To the letter of the law then, Iraq was declared in breach of several resolutions and the US wasn't. Therefore, Saddam is at fault and not the US. That could change if the UN ever passes a resolution saying the US breached 1441 (by taking away Iraq's "Final Chance"), or 687 (by firing on Iraqi forces), or whatever, but so far it hasn't. Officially/technically/legally Saddam is at fault. The US didn't breach any resolution if the UN doesn't say it did.

That may be using the letter of the law to defeat the spirit of the law, but the "spirit" was lost long before when Iraq started firing on US forces repeatedly for years. Hard to call it a ceasefire when the sides weren't ceasing to fire, regardless of who fired first.