The 2001 AUMF has been used to justify U.S. military action at least 41 times in 19 countries.

The 2002 AUMF was passed to invade Iraq, on the false claim that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. But long after the end of the Iraq War, this AUMF continued to be used to justify military action.

An AUMF is not necessary for self-defense. The president still has the right to defend the U.S. militarily against an imminent threat.

Ending the President’s Blank Checks for War:

1. Congress must repeal the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs.

2. Congress must debate whether more war actually serves the security of people in the United States and around the world. Reckoning with the costs and failures of the last 20 years of war and beyond is essential to determining the right way forward.

3. If Congress decides to pass a new AUMF, it must have clear mission objectives, geographic and time limits, specific targets, and a requirement to update the public on how it’s being used.