

Mr. Bill Keller
NY Times Executive Editor
Mr. Greg Brock
NY Times Senior Editor
The New York Times
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Dear Messrs. Keller and Brock:

An excerpt of Jeff Gerth and Don Van Natta Jr.'s upcoming book, *Her Way: The Hopes and Ambitions of Hillary Rodham Clinton* (Little, Brown & Co., June 2007), posted on *The New York Times*' website on May 29 and scheduled to appear in the June 3 edition of your magazine, includes a false assertion about Sen. Clinton's public criticism of President Bush, for which we ask that you publish an immediate online correction, as well as including one in the same upcoming issue of the *Times Magazine*.

In the part excerpted on the *Times* website, Gerth and Van Natta write that, in June 2006, "for the first time in her public speeches," she accused Bush of misusing authority granted to him by Congress in the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq by not allowing the weapons inspectors to "finish the job in order to rush to war." Gerth and Van Natta also write that in her June 2006 comments, made in support of a nonbinding amendment calling for "the beginning of a phased redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq," Clinton "offered a new interpretation of her own actions in 2002." But the comments they highlighted neither constituted the "first time" she made that accusation nor a "new interpretation." In fact, Sen. Clinton accused Bush of misusing his authority as far back as October 2003:

- In a Senate floor speech she delivered on October 17, 2003, Clinton said: "There are those of us, such as myself, who voted to give the President authority. We disagree with the way he used that authority. ... Among the many questions that I and others raised and the many criticisms we lodged against the use of the authority, which I and the majority of this body voted for, was the administration's aborting of the United Nations process and the inspections regime in order to launch military action."
- In a February 9, 2004, interview with the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, Clinton expressed the same position, saying: "What happened here is that we gave authority to a president who in my view misused the authority." She also stated that it is "a deeply concerning puzzle to me as to why the administration made the decisions that they made, starting with their refusal to permit (U.N. chief weapons inspector) Hans Blix and the inspectors to actually do their job."
- During an interview with former NBC host Jane Pauley on January 28, 2006, Clinton similarly criticized Bush's misuse of the authority granted to him by

Congress, as the *Sacramento Bee* reported in an article published the following day.

- Additionally, on the May 31, 2006, edition of MSNBC's *Hardball with Chris Matthews*, an aide to Clinton, Howard Wolfson, noted that Clinton had been making the claim that the Bush administration "misused the authority Congress gave them."
- Indeed, it was no secret that Clinton was making this allegation prior to June 2006. On the September 18, 2004, edition of CNBC's *Tim Russert*, host Tim Russert said: "[W]hen you ask Hillary Clinton, who also voted to authorize the war, she'll say 'Yes, I voted to authorize the president, and he misused the authority.'"

As you can see from the above, Sen. Clinton has, since at least October 2003, criticized Bush for misusing the authority granted to him by Congress. The report that says the first criticism came in June of 2006 is factually inaccurate.

I respectfully request that you correct this item posted on *The New York Times'* website on May 29 and also include a correction in the upcoming June 3 edition of the *Times*.

Sincerely,

David Brock
President and CEO
Media Matters for America

cc: Gerald Marzorati, *New York Times Magazine* Editor