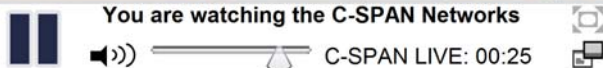


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# Gates, Mullen Back to Congress

## Continue to explain Libya operation



Rep. Kucinich floor speech on Libya

### VIDEO PLAYLIST

**REP. KUCINICH FLOOR SPEECH ON LIBYA: LIVE NOW ON C-SPAN**

[House Armed Services Committee Hearing: From Earlier](#)

[House Foreign Affairs Committee Hearing: From Earlier](#)

[Senate Armed Services Committee](#)

WASHINGTON, DC  
Thursday, March 31, 2011

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One day after Reuters reported that President Barack Obama signed a secret order authorizing covert U.S. government support for Libyan rebel forces, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chair Mike Mullen return to Congress to answer more questions about Libya.

Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen appeared before the House Armed Services Committee this morning, and this afternoon they will testify before the committee that bears the same name in the Senate.

Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg is testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee this morning also to answer Libya-focused questions.

The testimony comes one day after they joined Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in a closed-door briefing for lawmakers.

After that briefing, some members expressed concern.

About military actions in Libya, Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN) said, "This is, in my opinion, bologna."

He said Congress should have been briefed, and he said Secretary Clinton dismissed lawmakers' concerns and said the War Powers Act does not require Congressional authorization.

Not all members share that sentiment. After the briefing, Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-NY) said he was pleased with the information given by the

administration. He said the U.S.'s actions in Libya are "thoughtful" and "measured."

Representative Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), who has sponsored a measure to defund the Libyan mission, is giving a one hour speech on the House floor regarding the U.S. military's role in Libya. Kucinich wrote in a statement, "The critical issue today is not the defense of Libyan democracy but the defense of American democracy."

Rep. Kucinich says President Obama violated the Constitution by not seeking authorization from Congress for enforcing the no-fly zone.

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