Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition

to H. Res. 292, offered by Representative

BOEHNER and H. Con. Res. 51, offered

by Representative KUCINICH.

I strongly oppose putting any U.S. forces on

the ground in Libya and voted in support of

the amendment offered to the 2012 National

Defense Authorization Act by Representative

CONYERS which prohibited funds from being

used for that purpose.

These resolutions are both flawed. I cannot

support either of them because they ignore

the reasons the U.S. joined NATO operations

in Libya and the president’s efforts to keep

Congress informed, and each fails to recognize

the support role American forces now

play since we transferred leadership of the

mission to NATO.

I disagree with the Boehner Resolution’s accusation

that the president has failed to provide

Congress with a compelling rationale for

U.S. military activities in Libya.

On March 21, 2011, President Obama wrote

to Congress notifying us of his decision to deploy

U.S. forces against the Qaddafi Regime

in response to a request from the Arab

League. In his letter, President Obama stated

that his actions were undertaken to prevent a

humanitarian catastrophe and to address a

growing threat to international peace and security.

Further, the president fulfilled his pledge to

greatly redefine the role of American forces

and they now play a non-combat, supporting

role comprised of intelligence gathering, logistics,

surveillance and search and rescue.

Finally, I oppose the Kucinich resolution’s

call for an immediate withdrawal of forces from

Libya. In his speech last month on North Africa,

the president said the U.S. joined the

NATO operation in Libya because ‘‘we saw

the prospect of imminent massacre and we

heard the Libyan people’s call for help.’’

Not acting in the face of Qaddafi’s threat to

show ‘‘no mercy’’ to his people and to go door

to door hunting them like rats would have

been an abdication of our moral duty as global

citizens and would have sent the wrong message

to the tyrants of the world.

In his speech on Libya the president said,

‘‘To brush aside America’s responsibility as a

leader—and more profoundly—our responsibilities

to our fellow human beings under such

circumstances would have been a betrayal of

who we are. Some nations may be able to

turn a blind eye to atrocities in other countries.

The United States of America is different.’’

Given the conversion of special factors in

Libya, I believe the president’s decision has

been justified.