I thank

our distinguished chairwoman for

yielding and thank her for her leadership

today and every day on human

rights issues.

Let me just say, Mr. Speaker, I rise

in opposition to H.J. Res. 68.

You know, when U.S. intervention in

Libya began last March, I raised—and I

was among many—several still unanswered

questions about our involvement.

They included questions about

the identity and the aims of the rebels,

the varying Presidential statements

that seemed to shift like the wind, the

level of U.S. involvement, the possibility

of Qadhafi retaliating against

American interests outside of Libya,

and whether U.S. ground troops might

well be requested at some point, although

the resolution seems to clearly

say that that would not be authorized

by Congress.

In the course of the debate over the

constitutionality and viability of the

War Powers resolution, these questions

have remained unanswered. The President

has refused to seek congressional

approval of his action or even to provide

a full explanation of his decisions.

As the NATO campaign continues, new

questions have arisen about U.S. participation

and what is now NATO’s involvement

in Libya.

Let me just say mention was made a

moment ago by Mr. LEVIN about

Kosova and that somehow the Republican

opposition to military action in

Kosova was political. It absolutely was

not! I remember because I was very involved

in trying to mitigate the Balkan

troubles. I visited there many

times, visited with Milosevic, the dictator

in Belgrade. Actually, I was in

Vukovar right before it fell.

So, frankly, the statement that was

made earlier I think did a disservice to

those of us who were not supportive of

the Kosova operation. There was no

plan to war protect the Kosovar Albanians.

We used air power. Milosevic invaded

with ground troops. If Members

will remember, that country’s population

was literally, literally pushed

out into Macedonia and elsewhere—

about 1.6 million refugees—because

there was no plan when Milosevic sent

in the ground troops and killed thousands

of people because we had no plan

to protect them. An estimated 10,000

people were killed.

So the revisionism that somehow Republican

opposition to the war was a

political calculation falls very, very far

from the truth. And it’s a cheap shot. I

actually chaired hearings during the

war and stated my oppositions based

on principle, as did other Members. So

I expect—and hope—unfounded revisionism

would be avoided and that

there would not be that look-back that

does a disservice on the issue at hand

to principled Republican opposition.

So, who exactly are we backing in

Libya? What justification under international

law is there for directing both

U.S. and foreign government assets to

a rebel entity that is not democratically

elected and, therefore, not necessarily

representative of the people of

that country? We don’t know.

In addition, a senior NATO official

told CNN on June 9 that Qadhafi ‘‘was

a legitimate target of the bombing

campaign.’’ Even though this was expressed

as a NATO position, are we now

to understand that the Obama administration

is sanctioning the killing of

foreign leaders? Again, pursuant to

what international criteria or legal

justification?

Mr. Speaker, again, I call on my colleagues

to vote down this resolution

that is offered, H.J. Res. 68.