Mr. Speaker, I yield

myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks the

world has witnessed the horrifying

spectacle of violence again sweeping a

part of the Balkans. Serbian paramilitary

police forces brutally assaulted

the long suffering people of the

province of Kosova, more than 90 percent

of whom are Albanian. Whole villages

were attacked and their inhabitants

were forced to flee into the hills.

Entire families were massacred as Serbian

forces fired indiscriminately into

their homes.

When the Kosovars gathered peacefully

to protest these atrocities, Serbian

police met them with more brutality,

first firing on the marchers with

tear gas and water cannon, then beating

anyone who came within reach.

It should be noted that the terrible

war that destroyed the former Yugoslavia

began in 1989 in Kosova, when

dictator Slobodan Milosevic arbitrarily

and illegally terminated the autonomous

status enjoyed by Kosova under

the Constitution of the former Yugoslavia.

The international community and

our government in particular has repeatedly

warned Milosevic of severe

consequences should he be responsible

for further violence in Kosova, where

his government has forced ethnic Albanians

from their jobs, from their classrooms

and from their communities. He

has apparently decided to ignore all

these warnings. Using as a pretext the

emergence of a group calling itself the

Kosova Liberation Army, or UCK as it

is known in Albania, Milosevic has

ratcheted up his policy of making the

lives of the majority of Kosovars a living

hell through repression and brutality.

It is with the deepest concern that I

introduce this measure now before us,

H. Con. Res. 235, calling for an end to

the violent repression of the legitimate

rights of the Albanian people of

Kosova. I want to thank my colleague,

the gentleman from New York (Mr.

ENGEL) for joining with me in introducing

this measure.

With this resolution, Congress places

on the record its concern over the

worsening situation in Kosova and

points to constructive measures that

could lead to an improvement. In particular,

the resolution urges all parties

to refrain from violence. I fully understand

and sympathize with the growing

frustration of the Albanian citizens of

Kosova who have peacefully resisted

the repressive Milosevic regime for

more than 10 years. However, that violence

can only beget further violence

in Kosova. Only through dialogue between

the democratic leaders of the

Kosovars and the regime in Belgrade

can the situation be peacefully resolved.

It is in the interest of our Nation to

do whatever we can to encourage a beginning

of such a dialogue immediately

and without any preconditions because

there must also be some redress for the

victims of violence and their families.

The international community must be

able to investigate any reports of violations

of international law that would

fall within the purview of the International

Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

That is why this resolution calls for

immediate access for international investigators

as well as for organizations

that can provide medical assistance to

those who have been wounded. Hopefully,

this resolution will assist the efforts

of our Secretary Madeline

Albright, Ambassador Gelbard and

other diplomats to make clear to

Milosevic and to the Serbian authorities

that we view their actions with abhorrence

and disgust and that we insist

on the speedy and peaceful resolution

of the problems in Kosova. We cannot

and will not tolerate another Bosnia in

the Balkans.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to

send an important message to Belgrade

by supporting H. Con. Res. 235.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of

my time.