Mr. Speaker, I thank

the gentleman for yielding me this

time.

Yesterday in, Galveston, Texas, I was

visited by one of my constituents, Lisa

Halili, who brought about 15 other people

along with her, many of whom had

relatives and certainly had friends in

Kosovo. The story that they proceeded

to tell me was one that was absolutely

amazing.

The pictures that they brought of the

murder of Lisa’s father-in-law last

week in Kosovo and the pictures of people

who had been tortured, who have

been butchered, have been sprayed with

hot water, all while they were attempting

to do peaceful demonstrations by

carrying bread in their hands and by

holding their fingers up in a symbol for

peace, and then being attacked in the

way that they have was something that

I had a difficult time understanding. I

do not understand how we could in any

way stand by while people are injured

and killed for participating in a nonviolent

protest.

The Serbian Government must acknowledge

the basic civil rights of all

of their citizens. This bill condemns

the violent repression of ethnic Albanians

in Kosovo by Serbian authorities

and calls for a dialogue between the

Serbian Government and the leaders of

the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo to end

violence by all parties.

So I, too, join my colleagues in asking

for an ‘‘aye’’ vote on this bill, but

I would also ask that we might, as soon

as possible, consider sending humanitarian

aid in to these people, because I

know now that there are other relatives

of my own constituents in the

Ninth District of Texas who are holed

up in houses, fearful of being able to go

out even in search for the medical attention

that they need to treat the

wounds that they presently have. They

are able to get out or get messages out

so that other relatives can call back

here, and we are receiving word on a

daily basis of the condition of these

people, but it is unquestionably deteriorating.

As soon as possible, the Red Cross

must be allowed in with safe passage as

well.