Mr. Speaker, I thank

the gentleman for yielding me this

time, and I rise to support this resolution

and to condemn thoroughly the

brutal acts of repression and of murder

that have occurred recently in Kosovo.

Last month Serbian paramilitary police

units swept through Kosovo and

killed dozens of ethnic Albanians.

Many people were brutally beaten to

death. Then, on March 2nd, during a

peaceful protest against this massacre,

Serbian police again attacked about

30,000 Kosovo residents.

This is an outrage. The actions of the

Serbian government warn us that ethnic

hatred still threatens to erupt into

genocide. They must halt these actions

immediately, and they must take concrete

steps to ensure that this type of

violent police oppression will never

occur again.

Unfortunately, Slobodan Milosevic

has made discrimination against ethnic

Albanians official policy. He has made

ethnic hatred and ethnic slaughter official

policy in a fashion not seen in Europe

since the Nazis.

We had ample warning that this brutality

would happen. The State Department

on Human Rights stated that

‘‘political violence, including killing

by police, resulted mostly from efforts

by Serbian authorities to suppress and

intimidate ethnic minority groups.’’ It

went on to report that police repression

continues to be directed against

ethnic minorities, and police committed

the most widespread and worst

abuses against Kosovo’s 90 percent ethnic

Albanian population.

All of this was reported before the

most recent incidents of this year. So

we must act swiftly and firmly. The

Serbian authorities must not be allowed

to get away with these atrocities.

The work of the International Contact

Group ought to be commended,

but it must be intensified. They ought

to make very clear to the government

in Belgrade that another round of ethnic

cleansing and of ethnic murder will

not be tolerated.

International war crimes investigators

and organizations providing medical

assistance must have immediate

and unfettered access to the people of

Kosovo. International observers supported

by the contact group must establish

a presence in Kosovo and maintain

constant vigilance against further

Serbian abuses.

We must impose tougher sanctions

against Serbia, and we must maintain

an arms embargo against this brutal

regime. We cannot sit idly by while the

butchers in Belgrade use violence and

oppression to maintain their political

power.

We cannot allow the bloodshed and

destruction that occurred in Bosnia to

begin all over again in Kosovo. We cannot

allow this violence to escalate and

spread into neighboring nations and result

possibly in a general war.

The elections scheduled in Kosovo

should be allowed to proceed

unimpeded by Belgrade, and the elected

leaders who will be elected in

Kosovo should begin a dialogue with

the Belgrade authorities in an attempt

to resolve the situation without violence.

These are just a few of the steps that

must be taken in order to prevent further

bloodshed and oppression.

Unfortunately, we have not acted

soon enough to address these obvious

and persistent abuses and murderous

actions by Serbia, and today dozens of

people are dead because of international

indifference. The time to act

officially is now. We must not waste

any more time.