Mr. Speaker, while our President telegraphs to our enemies a timeline for ending the war

that they are certainly willing to continue to commit to, while military efforts continue in Libya with uncertain,

undisclosed, and unsuccessful outcomes

led by our administration under NATO

command, greater atrocities perpetrated against freedom seekers in

Syria go unaddressed, unannounced,

unconsidered by our President. Why?

What’s the reason? What’s the time

limit? It is known that Syria has been

a continuing threat to freedom and a

strong supporter and sustainer of unrest and terrorism in the Middle East

and around the world. They’re a strong

ally of Iran and a constant threat to our friend Israel.

As freedom-seeking citizens of Syria

join, Mr. Speaker, many others in the

Middle East in calling for political reforms, respect for human rights, and

regime change, the government of

Syria and President Bashar Al-Assad is

violently and sadistically suppressing

the Syrian people, his own people.

Tanks, snipers, goon squads, violent attacks on women and children,

starvation and dehydration, inhuman imprisonment, torture, and worse has been

the norm for the Syrian people for too

long—without a strong and principled

response from our President and our

Nation. Why? We’re not calling for a

war. We’re not calling for troops on the

ground. We’re not calling for anything

right now except to take a stand against this atrocity.

Other nations have stood and voiced

their concerns that President Assad

has violated its international obligations, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and

the United Nations Convention against

Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or

Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Isn’t it time for our President and this

administration to stand and speak as

the world leader and call on President

Assad to step down and for the Syrian Government to end its cruel crimes

against humanity?

I am firmly convinced that the rest

of the peace-loving world will respond

to our leadership. They are looking for

it. They expect it. They are asking for

it, and the Syrian people will be encouraged and defended. And liberty’s

cause will be promoted in this earthquake zone called the Middle East.

It’s time to speak up. May God grant

our President and this administration

and our government the courage to do

so. Because it is for humanity and people like ourselves that we speak.