Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from

Puerto Rico for allowing me to speak

out of order. Thank you very much.

We recently passed the 2-month mark

since the military air campaign in

Libya began. This is significant because the War Powers Act requires

that a President must receive a congressional mandate for any military

action within 60 days. The deadline

came and went without any resolution

being brought before this body, which

is a signal that our engagement in

Libya is lingering without much accountability or checks, without a

vigorous debate about the consequences of

what we are doing there.

Who knows exactly what our mission

is and how we will know when we have

achieved it? What is the end game?

What are the metrics or benchmarks for success?

At the same time, this week we will

debate an amendment to the defense

bill that would expand the authorization for use of military force, empowering

the President, any President, to fire bombs and missiles against any nation or

non-state actor that appears to

pose a threat. And without so much as

a check-in or consultation with Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I have had enough. I

have had enough of this state of permanent warfare. I have five grandchildren,

and not one of them knows what it is

like to live in a country that is not at

war with someone and killing someone

else’s grandchildren. It is time to put

the brakes on. It is time for Congress

to draw some clear lines, and Libya is

the perfect place to do so.

I am proud to support the amendment offered today by my friend, the

gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CON-YERS), that will specifically prohibit

the deployment of ground troops in

Libya. We cannot afford any further

expansion of this engagement. We owe

it to the American people who are footing the bill and, of course, to our

servicemen and -women who are already

fighting on two fronts.

To keep this mission from mushrooming into a full-blown ground war

and military occupation, we must stop

now. We must not put boots on the

ground in Libya, and we must close

any loophole that allows any President to do so.

We still have combat troops in Iraq.

We are spending a staggering $10 billion a month on an ongoing war in

Afghanistan that has been a devastating

moral and strategic failure. We can’t

keep doing this, Mr. Speaker. Our military is at a breaking point. The American people’s

patience is wearing thin. Two wars are already more than we can handle.

Let’s define the mission in Libya,

let’s complete it, and let’s get out.

Anything less is a replay of Iraq and

Afghanistan, where we must move

quickly to bring our troops home.