Madam

Speaker, I join my colleagues as a

member of the Subcommittee on the

Mideast and South Asia on the House

Foreign Affairs Committee. Today our

committee debated a very important

initiative dealing with Iran sanctions.

But it is interesting that we find ourselves

in one domino effect after another:

Iran, Iraq, and then, by extension,

Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Today I rise with a plea to this government

and to the State Department

to save those who are now huddled at

Camp Ashraf in Iraq; this government

that we have propped up, that we have

seen thousands of our treasure lost in

Iraq so that we could have a democratic

government, so that it would

have its own boundaries and its own

sovereignty, so it would not be governed

and be a puppet of some other

country. But yet Iranian dissidents are

now huddled, fearful for their lives. In

fact, Assistant Secretary of State Jeffrey

Feldman said, We’re actually more

concerned about an Iraqi desire to

move Camp Ashraf to someplace else

inside Iraq. The expectation is that

they would try to forcibly move them

to a different location in Iraq and that,

too, would lead to bloodshed.

Iraqi authorities under Amnesty

International says it must not forcibly

relocate 3,400 Iranian opponents and

that forced removals of the residents of

Camp Ashraf would put them at risk of

arbitrary arrest, torture or other forms

of ill treatment and unlawful killing.

I’ve met with Iranians, their families,

many of whom are in this camp, a

niece, a mother, a brother, and they

have no relief. They have no refuge but

us. And so it is crucial that we intervene

with the present Iraqi Government,

seemingly sometimes a puppet of

Iran, to not in any way cause the

bloodshed and the loss of these dear

souls.

All they wanted to do is to be in freedom.

Yes, they have disagreement with

the present government, but they are

refugees in the world order; in the

world sense they are refugees, fleeing

oppression. And let me tell you where

Iraq wants to send these huddled few

thousand who simply want to be left

alone, who have already been under the

eye of the storm, who have seen loved

ones lost, bloodshed inside the camp.

And where do they want to send

them? To the east of this area is Al

Busayyah and to the west is Al

Shabaka, the resting place for tribes

and migrants who live in the Iraqi

desert. Moving sand hills, which in the

summer reach temperatures of 158

Fahrenheit under the heat of the sun,

prevent growth of plants and creation

of waterways and toilets for the migrant

tribes. Some of the small and

large wild trees which cover a small

part of the area are desperate to survive

during sandstorms and the relocation

of moving sand hills. Many of

them have been trapped under the moving

sand hills while many others, despite

having deep roots, are taken in

the sandstorm to locations dozens of

kilometers away. This is where the

members of Camp Ashraf will be sent—

a vast desert of death.

And so it is imperative that this government

that we have propped up, that

we have sent our soldiers to die for,

don’t have the authority to kill 4,000

Iranian dissidents who simply want to

live in peace and alone. I hope that we

can reach our government to provide

safe solace for them, which is one of

the reasons that I supported H.R. 2194,

the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions,

which deals with the question of who

might attempt to supply refined gasoline

to Iran or prevent them with the

materials to enhance their oil refineries.

This is to make a firm stance

against Iran’s nuclear proliferation,

but it is also a stance against its

human rights abuses and its penetration

in countries around its area, including

Iraq, where they cannot seem

to be independent enough, that is, the

Iraqi Government, that they would do

the bidding of the Iranian despotic government

and try to move these innocent

persons—women, men and children—

to a place where they will surely

die.

I am grateful in the language that

was submitted in this bill, H.R. 2194,

that my language was kept that had to

do with concerns of human rights in

Iran and that this was put in the findings.

It is important that we acknowledge

that throughout 2009, the Government

of Iran has persistently violated

the rights of its citizens. Again I believe

it is important for the United

States to support the dissidents inside

Iran who continuously charge the government

with an irregular and illegal

election. I hope that we can move forward

in saving these lives.

Madam Speaker, as I close on Pakistan

and Afghanistan, Pakistan is an

ally to the United States in trying to

bring peace to Afghanistan.