Mr. Speaker,

I joined the gentlewoman from New

York (Mrs. KELLY) and the gentleman

from New York (Mr. ENGEL) over the

weekend. Our intent was to go to

Kosovo because we were aware of the

brutal violence that the Milosevic regime

had imposed upon the Kosovo

people. They went into villages and

wiped out the village. The Interior

Minister of Kosovo, who was acting

under the orders of Mr. Milosevic, said

that if there are even two terrorists opposed

to our regime, we consider the

entire village opposed and are justified

in eliminating it.

They killed 87 people, innocent men,

women, children. They lined them up.

Many of them they only killed after

torturing them. These people were not

a threat. Virtually all of them were unarmed.

They wiped them out because

they were afraid that they might at

some point pose a threat to their regime.

Why would it be a threat?

Kosovo is a country of 2.2 million people.

About 2 million of them are Albanian

Muslims. A little less than 10 percent

of the population is Serbian. Many

of those Serbs have been sent there by

Mr. Milosevic, who is the head of the

Serbian government, that now calls

itself the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

sent to populate Kosovo. Most

of the Serbs there did not want to be

there. Some of them had been driven

out by Croatians, out of the Krajina region

in Croatia, but the reality is that

the vast majority of the Kosovo people

want to have their own representation.

They had a vote in 1991, overwhelmingly

elected Mr. Ibrahim Rugova as

the President. That presidency was not

allowed to take effect, that government

was not allowed to take effect.

Mr. Milosevic took over control of the

country. The way he maintains control

over 90 percent of the population is

through the most brutal repression,

the same kind of brutality we saw in

Bosnia.

I can tell you one instance when I

visited Kosovo earlier, there was a

school that was fit for about a thousand

students. Half of the school was

reserved for a handful of Serbian children,

the other half, a thousand Albanian

Muslim children were consigned

to. The government bricked over the

bathrooms. One of the parents who had

two daughters there complained about

the conditions. That man had his body

mutilated, was slit from head to toe

and dumped on the doorstep of the family.

That is the kind of brutality that

enables a very small portion of the population,

through a reign of terror, to

control 90 percent of the population.

That is why we went there, in defense

of human rights, of democracy and, in

fact, of free enterprise because the Serbian

regime out of Belgrade seized control

of the private businesses. The majority

of the population are not allowed

to own their businesses. They seize the

assets of the banks, they deprive people

of the means of livelihood. You have an

85 percent unemployment rate in

Kosovo. What you have is a landmine

that is going to explode.

President Rugova believes in nonviolence.

The six Americans who were

imprisoned believe in nonviolence. In

fact they were there to preach nonviolent

conflict resolution, and yet

they were arrested by the police under

a phony charge that has never been

used before, that they had not registered

their exact location with the

police. They had moved from one home

to another, apparently, and so they had

their heads shaved, they were sentenced

to 10 days.

This is an untenable situation. It

cannot continue in the way it is. We

are going to have a press conference tomorrow.

We will have a rally tomorrow.

I hope that free peoples around

the world will join in unison against

these repressive tactics, restore independence

to Kosovo.