Mr. Speaker, there

is a war going on in Syria. Some call it

a civil war. It may have started out as

a civil war, but it has escalated. The

Government of Syria, is ruled by the

dictator Assad. He’s a bad guy; no question

about it. Several rebel groups, and

we’re still not sure who all these people

are, are trying to remove him from

power. World powers seem to be taking

sides in this battle.

You have the Syrian Government

supported by Iran and Russia. There’s

also this little terrorist group called

Hezbollah supporting the regime. But

on the other side, you’ve got the rebels,

numerous groups, including al Qaeda, a

terrorist group. You’ve got Saudi Arabia;

Qatar; you’ve got the Muslim

Brotherhood from Egypt supporting

the rebels. Turkey is concerned, and

even Great Britain has weighed in on

this, a former colonial power in the region.

And so more and more groups and

nations are lining up in this war in

Syria that’s been going on for 2 years;

100,000 people have been killed by both

sides. Refugees are leaving the country

and going to other countries.

I recently was in Turkey on the border

of Turkey and Syria, and I saw a

refugee camp that had 150,000 Syrians

that had escaped the war in Syria. No

question the U.S. should help with

humanitary aid.

And finally now the United States,

after 2 years, we’ve decided we’re going

to take sides. The President has said

we’re going to give arms to the Syrian

rebels and that they’re going to be vetted

so we make sure that we’re not giving

those to other terrorist groups. I

don’t know if we’re going to do a universal

background check on the rebels,

or what; but small arms for the rebels?

Here’s what the President said:

Well, it seems to me what we are

really doing is taking both sides and

we’re arming extremists at least on

one side. And I ask the question: What

is the national security interest of the

United States to be involved in somebody

else’s war? There isn’t one. We

don’t have a national security interest

to be involved in this war. The United

States seems to have a habit of getting

involved in other people’s business; and

once again, we have made the problem

in Syria our problem by being involved

and supporting the rebel groups.

What is the goal of the United

States’s involvement? This war is not

going to be easily won by the rebels.

Are we going to then add more military

power to the rebels? What’s the

end game? What is the goal here, to put

another rebel group in power in another

country?

You know, we’ve kind of forgotten

what we did in Libya. There’s Muammar

Qadhafi, the bad guy of Libya. No

question about it, a horrible person. So

what does the United States do? We

support the rebels who overthrow the

Libyan President, the Libyan dictator.

We sent small arms. And you know,

Mr. Speaker, those small arms are still

in North Africa, and they’ve spread all

over North Africa. We don’t know what

has happened to those weapons that

the United States gave to those rebels.

Only time will tell.

So this is not our war; yet we seem to

be very interested in supporting this,

as the President correctly said, a religious

war. You’ve got the Shia’s and

you’ve got the Sunnis. They’ve been at

each other since the year 630, and they

haven’t resolved their conflicts and yet

here a century and a half later, another

conflict is involved. It’s a religious war

between two groups in the Middle East.

It is escalating. The United States’ national

interest is not at stake. What

the United States should do and work

toward is a political solution to this

problem, not a military solution to

this problem, and do what we can to resolve

it politically and help really both

sides resolve it.

This is not our war, Mr. Speaker. We

have no national security interest.

There’s no American goal. We don’t

know the goal. We don’t know the end

result, and we don’t even know who we

are arming as those rebels. They could

be made up of criminals, patriots, al

Qaeda. We ought not be involved in

this war that has no national security

interest for the United States.

And that’s just the way it is.