Senator Risch.

Senator Cardin.

Senator Rubio.

Ambassador Ford, anything?

Thank you very much. I am next in line and I

will try not to use all of my time.

But, Assistant Secretary Feltman, thanks for being here today

and for your ongoing public service.

Ambassador Ford, you have heard it before, but it bears repeating.

We are grateful for your service in so many assignments but

especially under the horrific circumstances you have had to face,

and we are grateful you are with us today.

I guess some of us, not being on the ground like you were, have

difficulty in imaging or even articulating the scale and the gravity

of the violence. It is just hard to even comprehend. Even though

we see the television images all the time, I just cannot even imagine

what it is like. A number of us have been, frankly, impatient

with what Washington has done or not done. I will say both the

Senate and other institutions. So we are impatient. We are also

frustrated.

This hearing today is one way to advance the development of a

body of work that can undergird another resolution. I know we just

had a resolution. Frankly, I thought it was very weak. I supported

it but it was not nearly enough. So I am glad that we having this

hearing to advance the ball.

I wrote down two words here when working with Damian and

Chloe on our staff about the formulation of questions, and they are

two words that, I think, make sense for what we are trying to do,

at least what I hope we could do. One is ‘‘solidarity’’ and one is

‘‘commitment,’’ that we need to figure out a way to not just express

outrage and not just talk about solidarity, but figure out ways to,

in fact, bring about a policy or strategy that will demonstrate, that

will prove, in a sense, our solidarity with the Syrian people. That

is one priority.

And the other is commitment to a number of things, a number

of priorities, but commitment especially to humanitarian and medical

assistance. If we are going to say, as I think it is the consensus

position, that this should not be a military engagement on our part,

if we say that, we better get the other parts right. And the other

parts are humanitarian and medical assistance.

So my first question is for Mr. Feltman. I know the Friends of

Syria meeting took place and that was very positive. And I know

we have a commitment of $10 million to the refugees and the IDPs.

But I want to get a better sense of what was agreed to at Tunis

specifically as it relates to humanitarian assistance and what the

United States can do to address this horror. So if you can just walk

through what is definite in terms of an agreement and what will

actually lead to action.

Thank you. Thank you very much. My time is up. I will submit

some others for the record. Senator Corker.