. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to our

witnesses for appearing today. I have long been concerned about

the egregious human rights abuses taking place daily in Iran. Several

months ago I introduced bipartisan legislation that would require

mandatory investigations and impose sanctions on those who

aided in the brutal crackdown following the June 2009 election.

The regime has made it clear that it will not hesitate to use violence

and intimidation to suppress any threats to its iron-fisted

rule. The number of executions in Iran has been steadily rising,

with 39 just in the month of March.

The United States must show that we are serious in our commitment

to fighting human rights abuses and to giving opposition the

necessary tools to speak out and stand up to this brutal regime. I

look forward to the witnesses’ testimony on U.S. policy and the efforts

being made to document and publicize cases of abuse in Iran

and providing platforms for the opposition moving forward.

And I thank the chairman and I yield back.

. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Secretary Feltman, I would like to join you in calling for the immediate

release of Robert Levinson. Robert Levinson and his wife

Christine are constituents of mine. It has been now more than 4

years since he disappeared in Iran. They are awaiting word. I will

ask you here to share whatever information you can with us. If it

is more appropriate to share that privately I would ask that you

come to my office and provide the most detail possible.

. We will arrange that. Secretary Posner, what is the

status of the opposition movement in Iran at the moment?

. What are we doing to support them?

. At the same time, I think there is more that we

could do to crack down on the human rights abusers. Part of the

new legislation, around the legislation, is bipartisan legislation

that I had introduced that will do just that. I look forward to working

with you on that.

I want to switch back to Syria for a second. Secretary Feltman,

there were some reports, published reports earlier in the month

that Syrian mission personnel under the Syrian Ambassador were

conducting video and photographic surveillance of people participating

in peaceful demonstrations in the United States. They were

effectively, according to these reports, watching. They were effectively

spying on American citizens.

The Ambassador was called into the State Department by one of

your colleagues, and I have been unable to determine what happened

as a result. And what the status of the State Department’s

investigation of these very serious charges is?

. Yes, excuse me.

. Excuse me 1 second. Excuse me for 1 second. It is—

it goes well beyond——

[continuing]. This is not becoming of diplomatic behavior.

. But the accusation is that they have been spying

on American citizens.

. Okay, well, and I look forward to that. But I’m simply

asking——

[continuing]. When the Ambassador was called

in——

. Well, by all reports including the report coming

from the State Department, it was the Ambassador who was called

in.

. If I—Mr. Chairman——

. So the—I am going to—I am going to claim a few

extra seconds to continue.

. I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman, thank you. The

statement that came out of the State Department said that the Assistant

Secretary for Diplomatic Security Eric Boswell called Syrian

Ambassador Imad Moustapha into the State Department on

Wednesday, July 6th to express a number of our concerns with reported

actions of certain Syrian Embassy staff in the U.S.

. Are you—you are telling me that that——

. And we can speak further—and we can speak further

about the investigation. I am asking if you are not at liberty

to discuss the status of that investigation here we can do that in

my office. What I am asking about is since there were reports, including

a statement from the State Department publicizing this

meeting that took place, I am simply asking what transpired in

that meeting since we have not seen any reports of that that have

come out since? And can you confirm the Ambassador was at that

meeting or not?