Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

I want to follow-up on a couple of the points that the Ambassador

was just making. And forgive me for also being in and out.

You might have answered some of these questions, but you mentioned

that Congress could be helpful by helping to strength the

Syrian Opposition. That’s where I wanted to center my questions,

because you describe two centers of power, the military, and then

we have this interim Prime Minister who, I guess, was voted in

yesterday with 35 votes out of 63 members of the Coalition.

So, with these centers of power like this, just want you to elaborate

a little more. My concern would be—and I know a lot of my

colleagues would like to see us arm the Opposition, but I’m definitely

concerned as to who this is we would be arming, since some

of these folks are from Assad’s military who’ve defected, and correct

me if I’m wrong.

But what do you think about whether the military will be willing

to subordinate itself to political leadership? And then this leader

who was just elected, it just reminds me of Karzai. He hasn’t been

in the country for a couple of decades, and he seems pretty weak

by everybody’s account.

I know.

At this point, I’m glad.

Isn’t that Karzai’s background? Wasn’t he happily in

Texas, too?

Okay, I’m sorry.

You also mentioned that what we—so I do want you

to tell me what we can do as Congress to help in terms of strengthening

the Syrian Opposition. But you mentioned that what we were

concerned about, too, what we didn’t want to see happen was the

collapse of the state. And hasn’t the state collapsed? Does the state

have any legitimacy?

It’s still functioning.

I see.

Okay.

In my last few seconds, one, I want to thank Ms.

Lindborg for all of the work that USAID does. I didn’t want to you

ask you a question, though.

You mentioned the rape kits and sexual assault. And I was just

wondering what the capacity is to deal with that? Meaning that,

I mean, we even have trouble in our cities, some of our cities in

terms of putting a woman through that and then nothing happening.

Yes, I understand.

Sure.

Thank you.