Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Thank you all for

being here.

I was recently in Turkey and saw our Patriot batteries, the

Dutch batteries down on the border with Syria. I went to the refugee

camp there in Syria where 150,000 Syrians are in Turkey. I

could tell you, I was quite impressed with the way the Turks are

handling the thousands of people that they’re taking care of.

I had the opportunity to talk to some of the folks from Syria, including

the women. I got the impression that the persecution of

women, specifically, is not really confined to Assad’s forces, that it’s

anybody. It’s criminals from foreign countries, it’s so-called Freedom

Fighters, it’s revolutionaries, it’s just bad guys, and it’s the

government, which I think may indicate—it indicates to me that

there are a lot of bad things happening to the civilian population

by the people who are involved in the military conflict.

Quick question, Ms. Lindborg, Ms. Richard. Is that what you understand,

or do you think it’s confined to the government forces

alone?

Okay. Well, I appreciate you all’s work on that. You

know, if I had my way, when we rounded up Assad and his bandits,

we’d take all those criminals and just give them a trial together,

put women on the jury, and let them decide.

But, Mr. Ambassador, I want to come back to you on another

issue, because my time is limited. I appreciate your work, and people

in the diplomatic field. I’ve been called a lot of things, but a

diplomat is not one of them.

I want to talk about Assad. I met him. I didn’t like him when

I met him. I don’t like him now. He’s a bad guy. Is the scenario

playing out, though, that Assad is going to retreat to his domain,

his regime around Damascus, and maybe cede the area outside of

Damascus, and then hold his ground? Could we see maybe a smaller

Syria, a smaller Assad regime, and whoever gets the rest of it

is maybe in the way that it plays out? Do you see that happening,

is that his plan?

Excuse me, Ambassador. I only have a minute left.

Could you just answer my question?

The other question——

Let me reclaim my time. I’m sorry, Mr. Ambassador.

The Opposition, when Mr. Weber was asking you questions, the

leading Opposition movement, is that an al-Qaeda affiliate? Is that

what you said?

Okay.

This Ghassan Hitto, the new Prime Minister, what’s his

affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood? We’ve heard reports

about his affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood. What’s your

opinion? That’s my last question.

So, you don’t think he’s affiliated with the Muslim

Brotherhood?

Thank you, Madam Chair.