Mr. Speaker, just a few hours ago, I heard moving

testimonials about the impact of the Iraq war on real people, real

families and real communities, both American and Iraqi. I organized a

forum precisely to get beyond the statistics, the strategy, and the

abstractions, to understand the devastating human cost of this war.

We heard from Charlie Anderson, a former marine who suffers from

post-traumatic stress disorder and now is a regional coordinator for

Iraq Veterans Against the War. He spoke of the Government of the United

States having failed the men and women it sent to war.

He said,

He told us,

And this is the part that blew my mind, Mr. Speaker: Mr. Anderson

added that after firing his weapon during one ambush, he said,

Can you imagine that? The mighty United States military, the greatest

fighting force in the world, essentially rationing bullets?

Dahlia Wasfi, a doctor who is half Jewish and half Iraqi, offered a

powerful historical analogy. She spoke of her mother's relatives being

driven from their native Austria to avoid Nazi concentration camps.

``Never again'' is the refrain we use when talking about the Holocaust.

She then spoke of her father's relatives who are

She went on:

An Iraqi civil engineer named Faiza also spoke to us. She fled

occupied Iraq last summer after her son, a student, was detained for

several days by the Ministry of the Interior without any charges being

filed.

she said.

Although they said he had committed no crimes, his family had to pay

thousands of dollars to secure his release. How is that for the

transformation of power to freedom?

Now she and her family are living as exiles in Jordan, driven away

from everything that was once familiar to them. But the only other

choice was to live in a country whose infrastructure has been

completely torn down and never rebuilt.

Mr. Speaker, in the name of these three brave souls, for the sake of

human decency if nothing else, it is time to end this war, bring our

troops home, and give Iraq back to the Iraqi people.