Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

First of all, we are all outraged by the criminal conduct of a few.

War is not simple; war is not easy. By its nature, it is chaotic. It is

an effort to find humanity in a very inhumane environment. That is the

reason for the creation of the Geneva Conventions and the laws of war.

The United States is a signatory to the Geneva Conventions. The United

States has not violated the Geneva Conventions. The United States is

enforcing the Geneva Conventions and our laws under it. That is an

important message for the world to know.

The United States sets the standard for the world. So we here in this

body need to speak in a unified voice in the message to the world that

we support the Geneva Conventions for bringing humane treatment to

individuals, whether they are prisoners of war, whether they are

detained civilians, whether they are detained personnel. It does not

matter what status.

Sure, you get into the technicalities of the law, but what is

important is they be treated humanely. There is no justification

whatsoever for these ``softening up'' of individuals for

interrogations. What occurred was wrong.

This did not occur whatsoever in the first Gulf War. I participated

in interrogations. I was at the Joint Interrogation Facility. There was

never even a hint nor even a rumor with regard to the mistreatment,

abuse, or maltreatment with regards to prisoners.

What occurred here is wrong, and every American should be outraged.

What is important is that we recognize there was a failure of the chain

of command within the 800th MP Brigade and that individuals need to be

held accountable. The question is, where does it go from there, whether

that accountability function is strictly just of soldiers, or does it

in fact move to civilian leadership in the Pentagon?

What I do know about facts is that facts are very stubborn things and

that facts will hold the test of time. So beyond the rhetoric, beyond

any form of allegation, beyond the spin, facts.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for this body to speak in a unified

voice; let all of the investigations come through, let the sun shine

in, let the world know and the facts will determine where the

accountability lies.