Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for

yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the chairman and his colleagues

on that side of the aisle on their debate today and associate myself

with the remarks that they have made. I agree that this debate should

not be limited to the actions of those responsible for these inhumane

acts.

It is also about the tens of thousands of U.S. military personnel who

are performing their jobs honorably and bravely in the face of danger

every single day. It is important for us to focus on these men and

women today, Mr. Speaker, because the system that broke down and the

system that is responsible for these inhumanities has just placed an

even larger target on each of their foreheads. For the 138,000 brave

men and women, and for the countless other Americans in Iraq today,

their lives have become even more perilous with every new disclosure of

atrocity.

This Congress was kept in the dark for months, but now the lights

have been turned on. For every minute we take to find our voice, to

take a bold action, to demonstrate to the world that American democracy

and humanity are more than words that we teach to schoolchildren, is

another minute that our soldiers face more danger and even greater odds

than they would have faced otherwise, and they exacerbate their chances

of getting back home to see their families again.

If this debate is truly about them, I say to my colleagues; if this

debate is truly about them, they deserve more than a few words on this

floor today. They deserve accountability, and they deserve action, and

they deserve it now.