Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my

colleagues in support of this resolution condemning the abuse of

prisoners held in United States custody. We've all seen the disturbing

images of the unconscionable conduct carried out by a handful of our

men and women in uniform. A swift and thorough investigation is needed,

and needed now. For those responsible, justice must be swift and

strong. Their conduct directly contradicts and undermines our mission

in Iraq. The world is awaiting our response.

We must do everything possible to reassure the world community that

all those things we take as self-evident--the honor of our military,

our intentions in Iraq, our respect for human rights--remain as strong

as ever. The vast majority of our troops, who perform heroically every

day, are the best evidence of these tenets.

In the wake of this crisis, let us not lose sight of the fact that

there are 138,000 Americans in uniform who uphold the highest standards

of professionalism every day. They do so in the face of extreme danger

and hardship. We should not let the egregious acts of a very small

group overshadow the integrity of our soldiers nor deter our Nation

from its overall objective of developing a democratic Iraq.