Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my outrage and

disappointment in the soldiers who physically and mentally abused

Iraqis at the Abu Ghraib prison.

I do not believe that these actions represent the character of our

Armed Forces or of the United States. Unfortunately, however, these

soldiers, through their despicable actions, have severely damaged the

reputation of the United States and significantly complicated our task

in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened that the President did not apologize to

the Iraqi people for these deplorable actions. An apology from the

President clearly was in order.

I am also outraged, as all of us should be, that the Secretary of

Defense failed to make Congress aware of these accusations in a timely

manner. According to news accounts, the Department has been aware of

the infamous photos, and the abuse, since at least mid-January. Yet, we

only found out about them in the last week. This is outrageous and

unacceptable.

Unfortunately, this is just one more example of the Administration

not playing straight with the Congress or the American people. We have

been misled about the weapons of mass destruction, troop levels and the

length of their deployments, and the costs associated with the war--

among others.

This Administration must change its way. Congress deserves better

and, certainly, the American people deserve better.