Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, I was outraged by the

images of torture and abuse of Iraqi prisoners of war at Abu Ghraib

Prison in Iraq. These abuses harm U.S. interests in Iraq and the

efforts of the coalition forces to foster stability in the region. It

is unfortunate that the actions of a few have undermined the hard work

and sacrifice of the thousands of men and women who have served in Iraq

with honor and integrity.

The provisions of the Geneva Convention protect American soldiers

when they are captured in battle. As a result, it is very important to

ensure that we do not abuse prisoners of war in our keeping.

I believe that a prompt and thorough investigation of this matter is

necessary and the individuals who were involved should be appropriately

punished. I will strongly encourage both my colleagues in Congress and

the President to disavow these acts and to prevent any similar

transgressions in the future.