Mr. Speaker, I rise to vote no on this resolution. It is

right to condemn the brutal and abhorrent abuse of Iraqi prisoners.

But, this resolution is not strong enough. Without language authorizing

a full-fledged Congressional investigation into this matter, we are

failing our responsibility.

Republicans refused to allow any language to be added to this

resolution providing for an investigation into these crimes. They have

limited our ability to bring those responsible to account for their

actions. This is wrong, especially when our ideals have been undermined

and our leadership again tarnished throughout the world.

These acts of humiliation, torture and even murder are outrageous.

They are a shameful affront to the Iraqi people and those throughout

the Arab and Muslim World. As a Nation, we owe the victims of these

acts and the Iraqi people a full apology and investigation into how

these abhorrent abuses were allowed to occur.

The torture and abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison are part of a

larger systemic pattern of abuse with which this administration has

been complicit. We know--as the Washington Post reported in December,

2002--that prisoners captured in Afghanistan by the U.S. were

transferred to other nations to be tortured for information. We already

are well acquainted with the mistreatment of prisoners at Guantanamo

Bay. This latest expose of torture and abuse at the Iraqi prison is

just one more example of heinous treatment at the hands of our

Government.

We trust in the honorable service of our troops. This does not

reflect on the Americans bravely serving in Iraq. But, responsibility

does lie with those at the very top of leadership and at the feet of

this President.

It is time Congress launch an investigation to end these patterns of

abuse. If Congress does not act to right this wrong, I do not trust

this administration will. We must condemn these acts of torture and

abuse. Given that this resolution completely fails to provide Congress

with the tools to initiate such investigations, I am forced to vote no.