Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution

944. I commend Representative Peters for his valuable work with the

Caucus on Religious Minorities in the Middle East, which, together with

my colleague Representative Frank Wolf, I am proud to co-chair. The

second anniversary of the kidnapping and brutal murder of the Chaldean

Archbishop of Mosul is a fitting time to remember our responsibility to

these vulnerable groups both during and in the aftermath of the war.

As an Assyrian American, I am deeply disturbed by the ongoing

struggle Iraq's minorities face each day. There have been dozens of

church burnings, kidnappings, and random acts of violence against

Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syriacs, and numerous other minority groups and

this Resolution calls on the Iraqi government to take meaningful action

to address their plight.

Last year, we took an important step by appropriating $10 million to

assist Iraq's minorities in the Nineveh Plains region. I'm pleased that

today's Resolution calls on the Iraqi government to protect the people

in that area. Madam Speaker, for the sake of a free and pluralistic

Iraq, I urge a ``yes'' vote on today's Resolution.