Mr. Speaker, I stand before Members to strongly

urge my colleagues to support this resolution for freedom and democracy

in Iraq.

Life under Hussein's ruthless regime was unlike anything we have ever

experienced. His cronies, in order to get information out of men, would

rape their wives and their sisters and mothers. Women in Iraq

frequently lost their husbands to ``the law,'' never knowing what

happened to them, where they went or why they were arrested. These same

women, forbidden to go to work to support their families, were left to

starvation.

The Iraqi women under Saddam Hussein's regime were someone's mothers,

wives, and sisters, and they suffered tremendously. I led a women's

delegation to Iraq and heard these atrocities firsthand from the women

who now are free. They no longer dread the strong arm of Saddam

Hussein's injustice. Coalition forces are now protecting the newly

acquired rights of all Iraqis. I learned of the story of these two

women who were protesting.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago they would have been executed for

protesting. They were protesting to get the rights of women included in

the Iraqi constitution. One of these women was waving her husband's

death certificate saying, we have not waited all these years to be

denied freedoms. A reporter, an Islamic reporter, went up to ask, Are

you Sunni or Shiite? These women said, We may be one of each, but it is

none of your business, we are Iraqis now.

That is what this is all about. This is what freedom stands for. This

is what it means to two women, one who lost her husband and had no way

of knowing what happened to him. This is what we are celebrating today.

This is what has been accomplished by our Armed Forces, by the will of

this administration.

Saddam Hussein, the ruthless murderer, is now in jail. He will be

tried by his own people in his own country, and he will get his just

rewards, and these two women, despite the fear and dread and horror of

their past, will live in freedom. We should be very happy today.