Mr. President, I want to join my colleagues and so many

others around the country and around the world to condemn the treatment

of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. What happened there is

deplorable. It is despicable, and it is dishonorable. It does not

reflect the values of the United States of America or the code of

conduct for the United States military that so many of our brave men

and women live by every day.

This has been a terrible blow for the vast majority of our troops who

go by the book, serve America with honor, and put their lives on the

line every day to promote and protect the democratic principles that we

hold dear. It is also a terrible blow for America's standing around the

world. Today, our troops are less secure. Instead of winning hearts and

minds on the road to a free and democratic Iraq, our troops must now

overcome tremendous anger and mistrust.

That is why we must take immediate steps to: investigate these

abuses, hold accountable those responsible, commend those who did the

right thing, and correct the problems quickly and thoroughly.

First, there must be thorough and rigorous investigations. Congress

and independent investigators in the military and the intelligence

community must get the facts: what are the abuses, how widespread are

they, how did they come to happen, and what did the military and

civilian leadership do, or not do, to correct them. On charges of such

a grave nature--that are so detrimental to America's standing in the

world--there cannot be enough transparency and public scrutiny.

The result of these investigations must be accountability at all

levels of the military and civilian chain of command--up to the highest

levels. Why do the Privates and Specialists face prosecution, but the

Generals get letters of reprimand? Those who participated or were

complicit in abuses--or created a climate that allowed them to occur--

must be held accountable, no matter their rank or title.

The world has witnessed shameful acts committed by people who

represent the United States in Iraq. Now America must show the world

how United States of America exercises the true principles of

democracy--upholding the rule of law by administering justice in a

swift, transparent and fair manner.

We should also commend those who did the right thing, like Specialist

Darby, who reported the abuses, General Sanchez, who launched an

investigation, and General Taguba, who issued a no-holds-barred report.

The problems that led to this must be corrected quickly and

thoroughly. Our soldiers in Iraq must get the training and supervision

they need to do their jobs with honor and in accordance with

international law. And if heads need to roll to correct the problem, so

be it. The world must know that America holds to the highest standards

of military conduct and human rights protections. Anything less is

unacceptable.

The resolution we will vote on this evening commends our soldiers,

condemns the abuses and calls for swift justice and accountability. Yet

it should go further and demand accountability at all levels.

Mr. President, I hope the Senate will speak with one voice by

unanimously supporting this resolution.