Mr. President, I strongly support the resolution

which the Senate is considering today.

The world has witnessed images that do not represent America's cause

for freedom, democracy and human rights. While our American soldiers

toil and sacrifice to bring justice and opportunity to Iraq, there is a

small group of soldiers who have undermined the work of this noble

mission through their despicable behavior.

The acts that took place at Abu Ghraib prison were simply

inexcusable. The violation of any Iraqi prisoner's human rights,

dignity or life by any member of the American military--for whatever

reason--defies not only international law, but basic human decency.

These acts risk undermining the mission, and put at risk other American

men and women working for freedom in Iraq.

I am concerned that Congress was not adequately informed of the

abuses and the investigations. Secretary Rumsfeld's appearance on

Capitol Hill last week was welcome, and I expect that he will continue

to make himself available to the Senate.

I deeply appreciate the President's willingness to speak candidly and

apologetically to the Arab world. I support the decision to offer

compensation to the victims, and to put together commissions to

ascertain how widespread the abuse and humiliation were, and what can

be done to prevent future violations. I am hopeful that these steps

will be part of a much needed

process to make amends for the great damage that has been done by a few

men and women.

Abu Ghraib was home to torture under Saddam Hussein's regime, and has

not yet overcome its notorious reputation. Consequently, I believe

that, should the Iraqi people wish it, this prison should be wiped off

the map. Tearing down Abu Ghraib prison would symbolize the definitive

end to the era of torture--an era which preceded Operation Iraqi

Freedom, and must be put to rest once and for all.