Mr. Speaker, on June 16 in Baghdad, Iraq,

three soldiers who were at a checkpoint that they were manning came

under enemy fire. All three soldiers were assigned to this checkpoint.

Unfortunately, one soldier lost his life and two soldiers have been

abducted. One of them happens to be from Texas.

In the backdrop of the Iraq debate that we held last week, let me

restate a plea that I have made on behalf of these soldiers and on

behalf of the United States military. It is imperative that this

sovereign government of Iraq clarify and make very clear that anyone

who kidnaps or abducts an American soldier will be held liable. The

prime minister needs to make a very pronounced statement about seeking

information on the whereabouts of these soldiers, and then he must make

it additionally clear that he will not hold to anyone receiving amnesty

for killing an American soldier.

It is time to transition both security and leadership to the Iraqi

Government now.