Mr. Speaker, the fall of Saddam Hussein in Iraq has

unleashed tremendous religious violence against the Christian community

there.

According to the London Times, ``In the chaos after the U.S.-led war

invasion of Iraq in 2003, Christians found themselves targeted by

Islamic terrorists.''

Archbishop Paul Faraj Rahho said Christians in Iraq faced three bad

choices: either they fled, converted to Islam, or risked being killed.

Then in 2008, Archbishop Rahho himself was kidnapped and murdered.

These horrendous human rights violations and crimes against

Christians in Iraq were brought to my attention by one of my

constituents, Susan Dakak, a civil engineer who is a native of Iraq.

Iraq's Christian Ambassador, the Iraqi Ambassador to the Vatican, my

constituents tell me, is doing almost nothing to call attention to the

plight of these people.

The U.S. should do more to aid the Christian minority in Iraq. At

least one-third, maybe closer to one-half of these Christians, have

fled the country. They should be allowed to return. The killings,

kidnappings, and religious persecutions must stop.

The U.S. Government should substantially reduce our aid if Christians

are not allowed to freely express their religion in Iraq.