Mr. Speaker, as we have been greeted with a torrent

of depressing news about Iraq, more violence, there is debate here

about whether or not it is progress that the President plans to have

the same troop level next summer that we had before the surge.

There is no good way out. Keep the troops there and have bloodshed;

have them leave and have bloodshed. But there is one thing that every

Member of Congress ought to be able to agree upon, no matter what their

position on the war in Iraq: That we have a moral and practical

responsibility to step up and help those Iraqis who have put their life

at risk because they help Americans as guides, as translators. As

Ambassador Ryan Crocker pointed out this last week, it is time for us

to step up and help these people.

The Department of Homeland Security needs to have more people

processing applications for those that are trying to escape the worst

humanitarian crisis in the world other than Darfur. Don't make them

leave Iraq for Syria or Jordan to apply when we have the largest

embassy in the world in Baghdad. Support our comprehensive bipartisan

legislation, H.R. 2265, to help meet that responsibility.