Madam President, yesterday morning, January 17, a convoy

carrying a staff member of the National Democratic Institute and

members of her security team was ambushed in Baghdad.

Andrea Parhamovich, an American citizens, was killed. Three other NDI

employees, citizens from Croatia, Hungary, and Iraq, also lost their

lives in the attack.

Since June 2003, the National Democratic Institute has been working

with Iraqi citizens, outside the Green Zone and at great risk, to help

build the foundations on which a true democracy depends. I did not know

Ms. Parhamovich, whose life was taken so tragically yesterday. But all

of us recognize the ideals which inspired her to undertake such a

dangerous mission for her country and the people of Iraq.

I offer my deepest respect and appreciation to her last true measure

of devotion to democratic ideals. To her family, and the families of

those who were also killed, I offer my deepest condolences.