Mr. Speaker, the justice system has broken down for Jamie

Leigh Jones and other female contractors sexually assaulted in Iraq by

their coworkers.

In June 2005, nearly 3 years ago, Jamie Leigh Jones was drugged and

gang raped by her KBR coworkers in Iraq. After 2\1/2\ years and no real

answers from our own government agencies, Jamie decided to go public in

hopes of finding the answers and getting justice. She testified before

the House Judiciary Committee in December of last year. And despite

Jamie's experiences and the national attention that this issue

garnered, nothing changed in Iraq. There continues to be a hostile

living and working environment for female contractors that are

Americans working overseas for American employers.

A ``boys will be boys'' atmosphere seems to appear where assaults

occur, and then they're covered up. The Department of Justice says it

has several active investigations, but it has not prosecuted any

contractor for a sexual assault since the invasion of Iraq 5 years ago.

The Justice Department has over 200 employees in Baghdad. The

question is, what are they doing? Why aren't they prosecuting crimes by

Americans against Americans? There are 180,000 civilian workers in

Iraq; not all of those people are good folks, some of them have

committed crimes, but yet not one of them has been prosecuted for an

assault that has occurred. These assailants remain free and

unaccountable while the victims continue to suffer.

And yet there is more. This week we learned of another victim. She

identified herself this morning at the Senate Committee on Foreign

Relations as Dawn Lemon. Dawn Lemon's story is brutal. She went to Iraq

as a KBR contractor. She was stationed in the hostile red zone as a

paramedic. She awoke in January of 2008, just 3 months ago, to the

sound of incoming rocket attacks. But when she woke up, she was naked

in a chair, covered in blood and feces. She had feces in her mouth. She

found a U.S. soldier lying naked in the bed next to her with his

clothes and his gun on the floor. All she could remember was screaming

at this unknown soldier that was laying on top of her. She sought help

from a KBR colleague, thinking that he would save her, but he didn't.

As a soldier anally raped her, her KBR colleague forced her to perform

oral sex on him. And when Dawn told her KBR supervisor about the

incident, she was told to be quiet. When she reported the incident to

the camp's military liaison, she was told again not to say anything.

In order to leave Iraq, Dawn had to cooperate with KBR. She had to

sign documents agreeing not to discuss the rape in public. She decided

to send those documents via e-mail to an attorney in the United States,

but 20 minutes after she sent those documents Army investigators showed

up and confiscated her computer. They were obviously tracking her e-

mail communications.

Before she left Iraq on leave, she was assigned to sleep guarded by

two Army Criminal Investigative Division officials to keep her safe.

Her alleged assailants, however, were in the same camp, but they roamed

freely, doing what they wished.

As the Federal Government agencies refuse to take responsibility and

implement change and as these agencies have continued to pass the buck

back and forth, still, nothing has occurred in these cases. There are

no jurisdictional problems. The law exists to prosecute these

individuals in Iraq, and these laws have been applicable for some time.

There is nothing but excuses from our government agencies for failure

to prosecute these criminals.

We knew in December that Jamie Leigh Jones was not alone. Three years

later, this is still occurring. Dawn Lemon now joins a growing number

of female contractors who have been sexually assaulted in Iraq by their

coworkers.

Justice has failed these women. Is our government hiding these

crimes? Why don't companies like KBR cooperate rather than stonewall

these investigations?

Mr. Speaker, we will find the answers to these questions, I assure

you. Victims like Jamie Leigh Jones and Dawn are to be admired for

coming forward. Our duty is to protect them and their rights. We can do

no less because, Mr. Speaker, justice is the one thing we should always

find, even in Iraq.

And that's just the way it is.