Mr. Speaker, we now know that the President intends to

keep U.S. forces in Iraq throughout the remainder of his term and that

he intends for the U.S. to perpetually occupy Iraq via massive and

permanent military bases he has ordered built. We have just learned of

the staggering loss of life as a result of this war.

According to a new and incredible study, the number of civilians

killed in Iraq since the war began now exceeds 1 million Iraqi people.

The Iraqi civilian death toll exceeds the death toll from the genocide

in Rwanda. For years, we and others said we didn't know how bad it was

in Rwanda. With this report, that excuse is no longer valid in Iraq.

The official death toll in Iraq, fewer than 100,000 is what the

official number is, has long been considered fictitious by humanitarian

and other international organizations. Now we are forced to confront

evidence that puts the death toll above 1 million Iraqis.

Opinion Research Business, a respected and mainstream London-based

research company that works for major corporations and government

clients, including the U.K.'s Conservative Party, conducted the survey

in August. I point this out to inoculate my colleagues, the media and

the American

people from the venom that will spew from this for those who want to

keep the real cost of this war in human lives as far from public view

as possible, because no one who knows the truth could stand and let it

go on.

Joshua Holland, a journalist at AlterNet, broke the news online the

other day. I enter his story into the Record, which includes a link

directly to the Opinion Research site where people can read the entire

research survey online. It was conducted in 15 out of Iraq's 18

provinces during mid August.

In his speech last week, the President referred to Anbar Province as

a model of success. The research company did not even visit Anbar or

Karbala for security reasons. And they were not allowed to conduct

their field research in Irbil.

While the President is willing to stand up and say that he sees signs

of success, the survey found that in Baghdad alone, almost half the

houses say they have lost at least one member of their family. That's

the reality in the largest Iraqi city, which has the largest

concentration of U.S. military forces. Baghdad may have a fortified

green zone for U.S. diplomats and Iraqi government officials, but the

rest of the people live in a bloody red zone, where the killing has

claimed someone from 50 percent of the households.

The President cannot claim signs of success in Iraq when his stubborn

determination to remain is dissolving Baghdad into a dead zone. The

civilian carnage is not isolated in Baghdad. Other major cities also

registered dramatic civilian murder rates that would make the world

weep at the staggering loss of humanity occurring in Iraq.

For a long time, I and other Members have spoken out about the number

of U.S. soldiers killed or gravely wounded in Iraq, and we must never

forget the sacrifices made by American soldiers and the painful losses

suffered by American families across this country. But Congress must

not ignore the overwhelming loss of life in Iraq. News that 1 million

Iraqi civilians have been killed should compel us to get the U.S.

forces out of Iraq immediately.

I know and respect many of my Republican colleagues. Our politics may

differ, but our principle to protect innocent people does not. How many

more Iraqis must die? The carnage will continue as long as Republicans

in Congress wear the blinders that the President hands out to enforce

allegiance to his blind and bloody armed occupation in Iraq.

For the sake of humanity, remove the blinders and speak the truth to

power. The Iraq war is a humanitarian catastrophe on a scale that

exceeds the genocide in Rwanda. We claimed we didn't know about Rwanda.

We can't claim that any more about Iraq