Mr. President, each day

the world watches in horror at what is

going on in Syria. Seventy thousand

people have been killed as President

Bashar al-Assad carries out a campaign

of wanton violence against his own

people.

These atrocities have gone on for far

too long—seventy thousand dead Syrians.

It is time for this awful dictatortyrant

to step down and allow his people

to pursue a peaceful transition to

the democracy which they crave. Assad

grows increasingly desperate as rebels

continue to gain ground despite the

full force of Assad’s military arsenal of

planes, bombs, and rockets. President

Assad should understand the world is

watching his every action and will not

tolerate his unforgivable slaughter of

innocent citizens, including the potential

future use of chemical weapons.

President Obama has made clear—

and I support him 100 percent—the use

of such chemical weapons would constitute

a red line for the United States

and for the national community. Rather

than continue to kill his own people,

Assad should end the bloodshed and relinquish

power to Syria’s citizens.