

and this August. That is 63 percent more than over the same period last year.

Third, the escalation has been a disaster for the Iraqi people. Over 5,000 more Iraqi civilians were killed between the start of the escalation in February and this August than died over the same period last year; and according to news reports, the number of internally displaced Iraqis has more than doubled since the escalation began, from 500,000 to 1.1 million refugees.

Next, despite the administration's claims of progress on security, the Government Accountability Office has reported that average daily attacks against civilians have remained unchanged, unchanged, since the escalation began and that the Iraqi Government has failed to meet most of its key benchmarks for military and political progress. A National Intelligence Estimate describes the Iraqi leaders as unable to govern effectively and that the Iraqi Government's ability to bring about political reconciliation is likely to become even more precarious.

Fifth, and finally, the statement on Monday that the administration might, might, might, that "might" is the operative word, might consider bringing a few troops home, I believe that was a brazen political maneuver designed to give Members of Congress who are needing a reason to stay the course a way out.

Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous that the administration is playing politics with the lives of our troops and with the emotions of their families. But their real goal couldn't be clearer: General Petraeus told a congressional delegation that went to Iraq in August that American troops will have to be in Iraq for 9 or 10 more years. I doubt that even the White House's most ardent supporters want the occupation to continue for another 10 years. Yet, incredibly, that could be the plan.

We can only come to one conclusion, which is that under the administration's leadership, there is no light at the end of this tunnel. There will be more deaths, more wounded, more refugees and more destruction, with absolutely no end in sight. Meanwhile, our standing in the world will continue to deteriorate. The terrorists will continue to hatch their plots against us in their safe havens far from Iraq, and the occupation will continue to rob our Treasury of the resources we desperately need for healthcare, for education, for infrastructure, for energy independence, for the environment and real homeland security.

The administration will never end the madness in Iraq. The American people have called upon Congress to do it, and history will judge each of us by how we answer that call.

□ 2015

ADDRESSING THE MURDERS OF WOMEN IN CIUDAD JUAREZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to discuss recent efforts to address the ongoing murders of the women of Ciudad Juarez in Mexico, located just 5 minutes from our border near El Paso.

Over the past 14 years, well over 400 women, and I mean young women and girls, have been slaughtered, brutally murdered or raped in the city of Ciudad Juarez. I hold up this poster here tonight to show you the list of over 400 names of young women whose bodies have either not been found or identified, but we know have been missing, many who were those victims that were found slaughtered in the streets of Mexico. These are the names of young women who were taken from their families too soon. In fact, the profile of many of these young girls is within the age range of 15 to 20.

Slender with long black hair, olive skin, many working in the heart of Ciudad Juarez in what we call maquiladoras. Those are American-run corporations where many of these women were forced to work to help provide for their families.

The fact remains that many of these murders still remain unsolved. Many of these women were put on a track to work four different shifts. Given if you have a young woman or child working on a shift from 12 midnight to 8 in the morning, how was she transported there? Were there any security protections put in place to protect her? Was law enforcement aware and knowingly, maybe somehow acknowledged that these murders were taking place but did nothing?

That is why we are crying out today, along with the families of Ciudad Juarez and along with those families I represent in my own district. I was reminded that there are some relatives who were murdered. In fact, one young man whose cousin was missing went to Mexico to find out what happened. When he began inquiring about that particular case, the police there informed him that he should stay away and not ask questions and inquire about his cousin. Well, he didn't just leave it there. He kept insisting on finding out what the facts were and why this death was not given the full extent and force of the law. Evidently, at that point the police said, if you do not stay away, you will be the one that will end up in jail. And sure enough, that is what happened.

It is unfortunate that laws there are not given the same kind of credibility that we have here in the U.S. I cry out here with my friends and families because we are saying that the U.S.-Mexican Government has to do something.

After the recent election of President Calderon, he states that he is going to

do everything he can in his power to provide enforcement of laws that protect women against violence, yet we still have not seen enough done where we find the culprits who have been involved in these vicious murders over the last few years. Given he has just recently been elected and has spoken about bringing his office behind the enforcement of violence against women, he has even helped to try to enact legislation to do that, but every single state in Mexico has to adopt those provisions and those codes. What I am finding is that many of those states in Mexico are not following along that line.

I have to ask myself, when we can help women in Iraq and Afghanistan who have been murdered by the Taliban, why can we not ask for the same kind of respect and dignity from our partners in the south, from Mexico. I know this is not a partisan issue. Here in the House we were able to send a letter to President Calderon. In fact, 90 Members of the House signed onto the letter, and I thank the subcommittee Chair, Mr. ENGEL, of the Foreign Affairs Committee on this particular area, and also DAN BURTON, for being so gracious and helping to support this resolution passed by this House, H. Con. Res. 90, and also a letter that we recently sent to President Calderon.

I ask that the House speak up about this issue because this continues to go on. In fact, I was pleased we had a delegation go down 2 years ago to visit alongside the border and meet with the families and meet with public officials and ask why there was nothing being done to help expedite these cases. In fact, our government went as far as to even provide assistance through USAID to have forensic experts come in to help identify the cadavers of these young women. I believe there are 79, maybe more now, cadavers that have not been identified.

Families have contacted me and other Members of Congress asking for help on our side because we have the tools and instruments to do that. I know this country has the goodwill and can do some things, but I am also pleading to those parliamentarians and to the President of Mexico to do the same thing. While he is asking for us to help in immigration reform, which I am strongly supportive of, I also ask him to do what he can to help with law enforcement, with reform, and also to help expedite those cases that still have to be processed, and would ask that our Congress also support the continuance of oversight on this particular issue for the women and families of Ciudad Juarez.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SARBANES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker for recognizing me for this hour. We are up here this evening because I have had a chance to go to Iraq recently, and some of the things that I have heard in the House just a few minutes ago don't ring up with what I observed when I was in Iraq.

But I want to start off by saying this: When I went back home this past month, all over my district the main thing I heard from the people on Iraq, get the politics out of it and just tell us the truth of what you know and let us try to figure it all out together, and why don't we try to figure this out together instead of thinking about who is going to win the next election or who is going to get the next advantage in the political process. I kept hearing that over and over.

I want to get up, and some of my colleagues tonight are going to talk about what they know. Some of them have a lot more wisdom than I do because

they have been there more times than I have and have had more experiences.

My experience is relatively limited. I have been to Iraq four times since I have been in Congress, the last time being late in the month of July. I went on a long weekend to Iraq. So I was there the first time right after we caught Saddam Hussein. The second time I was there was just before the elections took place. The third time was May a year ago when we were pondering what to do and there was discussion of Petraeus having a plan. And then recently this July.

I can tell you that the difference between May and July is the difference between daylight and dark as far as the comments that I received from American fighting men and women and from Iraqis that I visited with while I was there for what was just a real long weekend.

Soldiers are always proud of their mission and accept their mission, and they do their mission and duty and we should always be proud of them. But you didn't hear the kind of comments that we have heard now about the enthusiasm that our soldiers have for the fact that ordinary Iraqi citizens, as we say in baseball, are stepping up to the plate and they are taking a swing, and that swing is helping our soldiers and our marines as they do their duty to try to eliminate al Qaeda from being that thorn in the side of Iraqi freedom that is causing the ultimate cause of all of this violence that is going on in Iraq.

Someone here tonight said there is brazen political maneuvers. Well, what I am saying has nothing to do with politics. It has to do with the fact that within my district, I have 52,000 soldiers who reside within my district, all of whom have been deployed at least once and some as many as three times in Iraq. I have the largest military facility that exists in the United States, Fort Hood.

Our guys told us a lot of good news, and I will report the bad news. The bad news they told us is that 15 months is tough and it is hard on their families and they hope we can get this mission done so we don't have to continue 15-month rotations.

So I don't come back just preaching good news. Our military, our soldiers don't like the 15-month rotation, but they do their duty. But time and time again I had soldiers tell me: Man, whatever you do, don't pull the rug out from under us just as we are starting to see daylight. We are committed in blood, sweat and tears over here, and the Nation has committed its resources and we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Don't pull out the rug now. If you do, don't ask me to come back when this place goes to hell in a handbasket. That is a quote from a sergeant.

We have to think about this. We have big decisions to make this fall. General Petraeus is going to come over here, and he will tell us the truth about what

is going on, and I don't think it is all going to be a beautiful, rosy picture. But I do think he is going to tell you what ordinary soldiers and ordinary marines told me, and that is, as compared to 6 to 9 months ago, it is substantially better. It has to do with the fact that we now have the necessary troops on the ground.

I would like to correct an error that a general asked me to correct. The surge did not start in February of this year. The surge was announced. The surge started the second week in July of this year. That is when the entire 30,000-soldier contingency was in Iraq, and at that point in time the plan began to be executed.

But the idea that we were building up troops brought good news. The surge is now less than 6 weeks old. That's the truth about what the surge is. In fact, one of the people who is in charge of bringing these additional forces to Iraq told me, he said: You know, I hear you are having votes to pull out in 2 weeks or 2 months. Well, just tell somebody it took us a hard 6 months to get 30,000 soldiers over here, and if you think you can move 160,000 out of here in 120 days, you have lost your mind. It can't be done.

The reality of that war is they come over there on ships, and just like they did in the Second World War, they train before they go in, and when they are ready, they go in. And the whole 30,000 finally arrived in July.

So the picture, as I see it, is good news because of Iraqi involvement, and we will talk some more about that. Right now I would like to recognize CHRIS SHAYS, my colleague who has probably been to Iraq more than any Member of this Congress. Congressman SHAYS, do you want to share your feelings.

Mr. SHAYS. I appreciate you holding this very important dialogue about Iraq. I appreciate your taking this Special Order to share what many of us have seen in Iraq.

I want to say that I go where the truth takes me, even if it counters something I believed and thought. I just go where the truth takes us. There is no question that 2003 was not a good year. When we attacked Iraq, there was tremendous euphoria and then we made mistake after mistake after mistake. Those have already been discussed. Half of 2004 wasn't particularly good, but when we transferred power to the new Iraqi Government, the Iraqi people, we began to see noticeable changes.

And then 2005 was a pretty amazing year. They had an election to create a government that would form a constitutional convention. They met the deadline to form a constitutional convention. They wrote their Constitution and adopted it in a plebiscite throughout Iraq, and then they elected a government under that new Constitution. So 2005 was a pretty astonishing year, a very successful year.

They basically had 18 months of progress from the deep hole we dug in