

wrong, then we need to also criticize the Palestinians when they do things wrong. Just recently, the Palestinians named a square in Ramallah for a terrorist who killed 30-some-odd Israelis. I didn't hear any criticism of the Palestinian side. When the Palestinians dig in their heels and say they won't recognize Israel as a Jewish state, I didn't hear any criticism of Palestinians.

So all I am saying, Madam Speaker, is that we need to not only reaffirm the strength of our ties between our two countries, but we also need to understand that in a relationship between friends, as in family, there will be some disagreements. We need to be careful about how we voice those disagreements in public.

Let me say that harsh words are never a replacement for working together, but I think that harsh words can sometimes make us understand that only by working together can we confront the things that we both know need to be confronted—the scourge of terrorism, the thing that all nations understand emanates in the Middle East from radical forces, and those are the kinds of fights that Israel has every single day fighting terrorism. We learned about terrorism on this soil on 9/11. Israel has to deal with it every day.

So let me just say in conclusion that I think we need to take a step back. We need to reaffirm all the things that bring our two countries together. We in the United States understand that our best friend in the Middle East is Israel, and we need to continue with Israel. When we have disagreements, we have to talk about them, but we have to always understand that only by working together can we have peace in the Middle East.

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

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

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. You know, tonight, Madam Speaker, I was going to talk about health care. I think that subject's been covered fairly well by my predecessors, but I will be talking about it later this week, like all my colleagues on the Republican side will.

But what I'd like to talk about is what my colleague from North Carolina just talked about a few minutes ago, and that's the rules of engagement in the conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq.

One of the things that really surprised me was that we have three Navy SEALs that are being court-martialed

right now for capturing an al Qaeda terrorist in Fallujah, Iraq. And this terrorist took four American contractors, one who was a retired Navy SEAL, he tortured them, he killed them, dragged their bodies through the streets, and then burned their bodies and hung them from a bridge. I think most people in America, Madam Speaker, probably saw that and were horrified that someone could be that inhumane.

But this man is an al Qaeda terrorist, one of the leaders over there, and we've been after him for some time. So we sent these three Navy SEALs to get him, and they did their job. These Navy SEALs, and many of the super-trained military personnel that we have, do an outstanding job in going after these people and risk their lives. In fact, in Afghanistan, we lost 19 Navy SEALs doing their job not too long ago when they went after an al Qaeda terrorist.

In any event, they captured this terrorist, and they brought him back so that he could be questioned and dealt with. They turned him over to the Iraqi military for a couple of days, and then he was turned back over to them. And then he said that he had been hit in the stomach by one of the Navy SEALs, and he had a split lip.

Now, bear in mind that this guy had murdered and tortured four American contractors and hung their bodies from a bridge. And he was complaining because he was hit in the stomach and had a bloody lip. Well, the Navy SEALs said that they didn't do that, and there's several witnesses that said they didn't do that. But one person off in the distance said that he saw some kind of an altercation. And because of that, they're being court-martialed.

Now, get this, Madam Speaker. They're being court-martialed for risking their lives and capturing a terrorist who killed and tortured four American contractors and who, we believe, was involved in beheading some other Americans.

I can't believe it. I don't understand what the administration and what our Defense Department's doing. We should be going after these people, and we can't go after them with kid gloves. We can't keep—we can't coddling them. These people are terrorists.

And my colleague from North Carolina that talked about the rules of engagement—now in Afghanistan we have military personnel over there that are told when and how they can shoot at the enemy who may be firing at them. And I've been told that many of the Taliban and al Qaeda terrorists over there, if they see they're going to be hit or attacked, they'll drop their guns after firing at the American personnel and our NATO allies. It's just crazy. You can't run a war like that.

And so I'd like to say to the Defense Department and to the President of the United States, if he were listening—I know I can't talk to him directly because I can only talk to the House and

my colleagues. I can't talk to the people of America, even if they might be paying attention. But we can't run a war like this. We have to go after the terrorists, no holds barred. If we catch them and they're terrorists we should bring them to justice or kill them. It's just that simple.

And we shouldn't be holding our military personnel like these three Navy SEALs up to a standard that's impossible for them to be able to attain. They have to do their job. They risk their lives. Many of them get killed and come back maimed. I've been out to Walter Reed and to Bethesda, and I've seen the horrible things that happen in war and how they lose their arms and legs and are maimed for life. But they do that to help us maintain our freedom and our democracy, our Republic.

And so I hope that somebody in the Defense Department may be listening and paying attention, Madam Speaker, and in the administration. We need to take the gloves off of our men and women in combat and let them know we're behind them 100 percent. And these Navy SEALs should not be court-martialed, as is the case right now.

We have sent 140,000 petitions to the Defense Department asking for this case to be dropped. I hope it will be dropped. But we are not going to let this thing go away. We're going to fight for these Navy SEALs until we get them exonerated. If anything, they should get medals for what they did.

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 Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR 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 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.)

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SUPPORT OF CUBA'S PRO-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, inside the

gulag of prisons in the Caribbean totalitarian state of the Castro brothers, a few days ago six heroes managed to get a statement out of one of the prisons, and I'd like to read it at this time.

"We continue to suffer cruel treatment, inhuman, degrading treatment, and even torture in the Communist regime's prisons. We ask all who support Cuba's freedom to, between March 12 and March 31, unite in short periods of fasting and study of the Bible, demanding the liberation of all political prisoners and liberty and democracy in Cuba. Please engage in short fasts and prayer sessions in your homes, churches, or other public gathering places, and speak out in articles and conferences to reflect upon and help implement, through peaceful, just, and patriotic means, the long-sought objectives of the Cuban people."

And this statement is from Oscar Elias Biscet, Julio Cesar Galvez, Ricardo Gonzalez, Normando Hernandez, Regis Iglesias, and Angel Moya. They are in the Combinado del Este prison of Cuba. This was sent March 3rd.

The Parliamentary Forum of the Community of Democracies was formed this last Friday, Madam Speaker, under the leadership of Lithuania, that is chairing the Community of Democracies, and especially a magnificent diplomat, Ambassador Pavilionis.

Lithuania led the Community of Democracies to form a parliamentary assembly, the Parliamentary Forum, and the first meeting was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on Friday. And the first resolution by motion of the new president of the Parliamentary Forum of the Community of Democracies, President Zingeris, the first resolution of that Parliamentary Forum of the Community of Democracies, I'd like to read. It's titled Calling for Support of Cuba's Pro-Democracy Movement. In the convening meeting, the Parliamentary Forum of the Community of Democracies, Vilnius, Lithuania, March 12, 2010:

"Whereas the pro-democracy movement in Cuba has grown at a rapid pace over the last 3 years, and specifically expressions of the movement are evident today in the explosion of bloggers, independent journalists and musicians, artists, writers, and others who are using their talents to denounce the atrocities of the dictatorship, all while putting forth new ideas for the transition to democracy;

"Whereas there are still extraordinary obstacles to overcome such as the continued repression by the totalitarian dictatorship, extremely limited access to the Internet and 'texting' capabilities, and a lack of a coherent message of solidarity from the international community;

"Whereas the dictatorship is fearful of the growth of the pro-democracy movement;

"Whereas the message of the movement is coherent and clear in demanding freedom for all Cuban political prisoners, beginning with those are

gravely ill inside the prisons, freedom of expression, and fair multiparty elections with international supervision;

"Whereas this common position of the Cuban pro-democracy movement requires recognition, dissemination, and solidarity on the part of the international community;

"Whereas now more than ever the Cuban pro-democracy movement requires that the democratic community take concrete steps to demonstrate its solidarity;

"Now, therefore it is resolved by the Parliamentary Forum of the Community of Democracies that it condemns the brutality of the Cuban regime against Cuban political prisoners;

expresses its full support for the Cuban pro-democracy movement;

honors Cuban pro-democracy fighters such as the martyr Orlando Zapata Tamayo and express its admiration for the efforts of other heroes such as Guillermo Farinas;

calls for the immediate release of all Cuban political prisoners and free multiparty elections in Cuba; and

calls on the democratic community to take concrete steps in demonstrating their solidarity with the Cuban pro-democracy movement by providing humanitarian and technological assistance to the pro-democracy movement, urging foreign diplomatic posts in Havana to strengthen contacts with pro-democracy activists on the island, encouraging foreign dignitaries to visit Cuba for the sole purpose of meeting with pro-democracy activists, and looking for opportunities to reiterate and support the common position of the Cuban pro-democracy movement in the international community."

This action by the Parliamentary Forum of the Community of Democracies deserves commendation. Those heroes in the gulag who are suffering today are the leaders of Cuba tomorrow, and they deserve our support.

THE RULE OF LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, for the past, about—I don't know—12 to 18 months, I've been coming on the floor of the House and talking about various aspects of the rule of law. The rule of law is the underpinning upon which our society is built. We've talked about this over and over. We've talked about it in terms of ethical issues that pertain to people in this House. We've talked about it in terms of criminal actions. We've talked about it in terms of what's going on with our military.

You heard some speakers here tonight raise some issues concerning how we fight wars, rules of engagement. All of these are rules we set for ourselves in some form or fashion.

Well, I've also been on this floor talking about the fact that political correctness, in my humble opinion, is becoming so rampant in our society that we forget the "why" of what we are doing because we're so afraid of offending someone.

I am from central Texas. My district includes the largest military facility, as far as soldiers are concerned, on the face of the globe, Fort Hood, Texas. I think everybody, those of us from central Texas, we know Fort Hood, and when we hear Fort Hood we have a lot of great thoughts about the great soldiers out there, we have great thoughts about the great commanders that serve at Fort Hood, about the awesome accomplishments of the soldiers that have passed through Fort Hood for generations, fighting our Nation's battles on every shore you can imagine and all over this country, dating back to the Civil War.

Fort Hood doesn't date back to the Civil War, but Fort Hood is named after a Civil War soldier. We are proud of Fort Hood.

But, unfortunately, because of something that happened this year, Fort Hood will also be identified always in the minds of American citizens as a place where a terrorist stabbed people in the back by walking down the line of soldiers and shooting soldiers just standing in line, either checking in from going to war or checking out, getting ready to go to war. They were not armed. They were not doing anything more than what's required of them by the Army to process into or out of the facility.

And yet, a man who's now—we call him the accused, but over 200 people witnessed Mr. Hasan go on a shooting rampage, killing soldiers who were doing nothing more than standing in line, or processing another soldier. These were not people that were at war or were armed to defend themselves. Had they been armed to defend themselves, Mr. Hasan wouldn't have gotten over more than maybe one shot before he would have died, because these were professional soldiers who knew exactly how to take care of business.

But they were not armed. And, in fact, they were in a safe place. That's the sad thing. They were in a safe place, a place where they should have been safe or where they thought they were safe, and where maybe never again they will think that they are safe because of what happened that day.

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Now, this was not some terrorist that sneaked into our country. This was a man that had joined the United States Army and, through the goodness of the American citizen and the American taxpayer, received a medical degree with a psychiatric specialty; and all of this was paid for by the United States Army. He did his medical school, his residency, his post-residency training and his residency for psychiatry all