

on whom it is we are supporting, for how long, and through what legal means?

I and the entire world watched with horror the news reports of Qadhafi's troops attacking civilians, including shutting off food, water, and fuel, shelling cities and towns, and targeting innocent people for killing. Those responsible for these crimes must face justice for what they have done. But please tell me, where across that region do we not have dictators in charge of nations? Is America to intervene everywhere there is an uprising?

Libya is certainly not the only African country facing a humanitarian crisis. We have all but ignored the situation in Côte d'Ivoire which has already displaced approximately 500,000 people, with triple the population of Libya. The crisis in Côte d'Ivoire would dwarf the violence in Libya. Would the President's logic extend there? Or what about the Congo? Or Sudan? Is it America's new 21st century Monroe Doctrine to now intervene militarily under the guise of humanitarian aid wherever a President chooses?

The crisis in Libya was several weeks old when the President chose to take action. Surely there was time to seek congressional approval. I am highly concerned that this military intervention took the familiar pattern of launching attacks just when Congress left town to go back to our districts for a week, thus silencing our voices in Congress even more as this floor was shut down. How premeditated and how irresponsible I believe the current course of events to be.

I have sent an official letter to the Obama administration asking under what U.S. legal authority U.S. forces have been engaging in Libya. As a member of the Defense Subcommittee, I fully expect a matter of this nature would have been brought up before us. It never was.

Moreover, what have the operations cost to date? And from which accounts are funds being taken? The Department of Defense claims it cannot create a civil works employment program to employ our returning U.S. Iraqi and Afghani veterans when they come home here, yet it finds money for this excursion.

Mr. Speaker, there should have been a vote on the use of force outside our borders, not a notice after the fact. Anyone who is following the news has seen the reports of protest and unrest in multiple nations. Mr. Speaker, on the operations in Libya, there should have been a vote here.

Does this Administration, like the last one, believe that it has the authority to take military action wherever it chooses in the Middle East? Could the President's same rationale extend to Yemen? Or Lebanon? What about Syria? How would the Administration respond to a similar situation in Iran? Or Pakistan? The list goes on.

The simultaneous commitment of U.S. military force in multiple countries is a serious matter. And the Administration needs to be re-

buked for its failure to appropriately engage Congress.

Not only is Congress a co-equal branch. Congress and Congress alone has the Constitutional authority to commit the Republic in such matters. F-16's, Harpoon missiles, Apache helicopters, are all weapons of war not humanitarian assistance. And who exactly are the rebels we are favoring in this Libya incursion, and where is their funding and weapons coming from? Which interests do they represent? Mr. Speaker, on the operations in Libya, there should have been a vote here.

GETTING OUT OF AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago, we had the opportunity to vote to bring our troops home from Afghanistan. It was Mr. KUCINICH's resolution that many of us hoped that my party would have joined. We only had eight Republicans vote to bring our troops home this year from Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, what is so ironic, we sit on this floor and we debate cutting the budget, doing this and that, and yet we are supporting a corrupt leader named Karzai in Afghanistan.

In fact, I want to share with the people that a former Marine general is my confidential adviser. I don't have permission to use his name. I could, I guess, but I don't have his permission. This is what he said in a recent email to me:

"What do we say to the mother and father, the wife, of the last soldier or marine killed to support a corrupt government and corrupt leader in a war that can't be won?"

Let me share with you, Mr. Speaker, a couple of comments from the leader of Afghanistan, President Karzai, on March 12, 2011, in *The New York Times*:

"I request that NATO and America should stop these operations on our soil," he said. "This war is not on our soil. If this war is against terror, then this war is not here" because there is no terrorism here on our soil.

Karzai further stated, on December 8, 2010, in a meeting with Petraeus and Eikenberry, that he now has three main enemies: the Taliban, the United States, and the international community. He said, "If I had to choose sides today, I'd choose the Taliban."

This is the leader of a country where our young men and women are going and getting killed and losing their legs and their arms. It makes no sense, Mr. Speaker.

According to a Washington Post/ABC News poll on March 15 of this year, 73 percent of Americans no longer think the war in Afghanistan is worth fighting. Mr. Speaker, 73 percent of the American people say the war in Afghanistan is not worth fighting.

I was very disappointed when Secretary Gates recently spoke to the Armed Services Committee, which I

serve on, and I would like to read his quote because we are going to be there until about 2014 or 2015 unless this Congress demands that we start bringing our troops home. This is his quote:

"That is why we believe that, beginning in fiscal year 2015, the U.S. can, with minimal risk, begin reducing Army active duty end strength by 27,000 and the Marine Corps by somewhere between 15,000 and 20,000. These projections assume that the number of troops in Afghanistan would be significantly reduced by the end of 2014, in accordance with the President's strategy."

Mr. Speaker, we are going to be there until 2014 or maybe even 2015.

I also would like to show this poster. This was in the Greensboro, North Carolina, paper called the News & Record on February 27, 2011. There's a flag-draped coffin coming off a plane, Mr. Speaker, and the paper in Mr. HOWARD COBLE's district said, "Get out." Get out of Afghanistan before it's too late. And it's a black hole with no end to it.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read from a letter from a marine down in my district, Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina. He served 31 years and retired as a colonel in the United States Marine Corps.

"I urge you to make contact with all of the current and newly elected men and women to Congress and ask them to end this war and bring our young men and women home. If any of my comments will assist in this effort, you are welcome to use them and my name," Dennis G. Adams, Lieutenant Colonel, Retired, United States Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, yesterday, with Congresswoman SUE MYRICK, I went to Walter Reed Hospital to visit the young soldiers and marines who have lost their legs, their arms. Two of them that we saw, Mr. Speaker, have no body parts below their waist. No body parts below their waist. And here we are supporting a corrupt leader of a nation that, quite frankly, will never be a nation. It is a country.

□ 1030

It is not a nation. It never will have a national government. Why are we wasting \$7 billion a month in Afghanistan, and our young men and women are coming back with broken bodies?

Mr. Speaker, it is time to get out of Afghanistan. I close by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God, in his loving arms, to hold the families who've given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I ask God to bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in the eyes of God. And I will ask God to please bless the President, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God.

And I will say three times, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

IS TWO WARS IN THE MIDDLE EAST NOT ENOUGH?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern about the military campaign in Libya, one that has been underway the last week and a half.

First off, it's distressing to once again see that Congress's power has been so casually disregarded in our role and responsibility regarding war. There should have been a robust debate in this Chamber about the proper course of action in Libya. The American people deserve it. The Constitution mandates it.

The President gave a fine speech Monday night, as he certainly does, but I found him more eloquent than persuasive. I'm not satisfied that he has made a thorough case for military action against Libya. There are still too many unanswered questions.

What is our responsibility now?

Where does our commitment end?

Does the Pottery Barn rule apply in Libya? If we break it do we own it?

I'm not comforted by the fact that NATO is now in charge of this mission because the fact is, the United States is the dominant force within NATO. Any NATO-led operation is one in which we still bear an enormous responsibility.

And then there's the cost. The Pentagon has acknowledged that it's already spent \$550 million on the Libya operation. That's after 1½ weeks. Mr. Speaker. The bill to the taxpayer could easily climb over \$1 billion. And, Mr. Speaker, at a time when we're already spending close to \$7 billion a month on a failed military occupation in Afghanistan; this, at a time when my friends in the majority want to snap the purse shut on so many important programs the American people need.

There is unquestionably, unquestionably a humanitarian crisis in Libya. I'm appalled, as we all are, about Qadhafi's brutality against his own people. But I fear that that operation will set a dangerous precedent and send us sliding down a slippery slope.

We can't afford to head down a path of perpetual U.S. military engagement around the world. With developing situations in Syria, the Ivory Coast, Congo, Yemen, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, we can't give up on diplomatic and humanitarian efforts in favor of guns and bombs everywhere there's violence and unrest.

We're already fighting two wars in the Middle East. Is that not enough? Have we learned nothing over the last decade? Have we learned nothing about the danger of open-ended military conflicts where the exit strategy is unclear and victory is ill-defined?

The war in Afghanistan is sapping America of its strength in so many ways. It has cost us in precious taxpayer dollars and has cost us more

than 1,500 of our bravest people. And it is costing us credibility and moral authority in ways that can't even be measured yet or quantified every single day.

The time is now, Mr. Speaker, for less war, not more. Let's stop, let's turn, and let's insist that we don't turn Libya into another black hole. Let's bring our troops home from Afghanistan, and let's give our children a future of peace.

AMERICA'S RISING ENERGY PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a topic that affects every American, rising energy prices. I've spoken on this floor about it before, and I will continue to do so until we increase our energy production here in America, and our dependence on the political earthquake zones of this world is depleted.

While President Obama was traveling in South America, I returned home to my district last week, and I heard from my constituents loud and clear: Gas prices are too high. We need to do something about it. That's why I found it so outrageous and appalling when I heard our President last week offering assistance and encouraging energy production, not here in America, but in Brazil.

No, that's not the right direction. We need to encourage energy production right here at home, not Brazil. We need to develop our offshore energy resources so that jobs can be created here in America, not Brazil. And we need to encourage energy independence so that we return to more reasonable energy costs, not in Brazil, but right here in America.

Mr. Speaker, the time is now to confront this issue and encourage energy exploration and production right here at home. The time is now to create our independence from foreign energy sources and secure our present and future as good stewards of our God-given resources and the blessings of liberty.

THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, today a united Hawaii delegation will be introducing the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act in both Chambers of Congress. Long denied the recognition and rights accorded to America's other indigenous people, this bill will finally enable Native Hawaiians to embark on their long awaited process of achieving self-determination.

On the House side, Congresswoman HANABUSA and I have the great pleas-

ure of being joined in this effort by Congressman DON YOUNG, Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, Congresswoman MADELEINE BORDALLO and Congressman TOM COLE. All are longstanding friends of Hawaii and Native Hawaiians.

How we treat our native indigenous people reflects our values and who we are as a country. Clearly, there is much in the history of our interactions with the native people of what is now the United States that makes us less than proud. The American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, all indigenous people, have suffered at the hands of our Government. But one of the great attributes of America has always been the ability to look objectively at our history, learn from it, and when possible make amends.

The bill we are introducing today has been more than 10 years in the making. It has been a deliberative and open legislative process. There have been 12 congressional hearings on Native Hawaiian recognition, five of which were held in Hawaii. These bills have been marked up by committees in both Chambers. The House has passed Native Hawaiian recognition bills three times: First in 2000, again in 2007, and most recently just last year.

The goals and purposes of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act are consistent with the history of the Native Hawaiian people and the record of United States involvement in Hawaii. The bill is also consistent with over 188 existing Federal laws that promote the welfare of Native Hawaiian people.

I know there are Members who question these authorized programs simply because Native Hawaiian is in the title, which is exactly why we need this bill. It will formalize the very special political and legal relationship between the United States and the Native Hawaiians by providing a process through which the Native Hawaiian community can reorganize its governing entity within this relationship. This is how we treat Alaska Natives and American Indians, and this is how we should treat Native Hawaiians.

The Kingdom of Hawaii was overthrown in 1893. Hawaii's last monarch, Queen Liliuokalani, was deposed by an armed group of businessmen and sugar planters who were American by birth or heritage, with the support, abetted by U.S. troops. The Queen agreed to relinquish her throne, under protest, to avoid bloodshed.

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She believed the United States, with which Hawaii had diplomatic relations, would restore her to the throne.

There may be new Members to this body who have not had occasion to learn the history of Hawaii, and I extend an open invitation to those Members to share this history with you.

The State of Hawaii motto, which is also the motto of the Kingdom of Hawaii, is, "Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka