

I am grateful for the dedication and caring exhibited by their staff, and they deserve our recognition.

Another problem unique to the Florida Keys is one of housing. We have a problem with nonconforming downstairs enclosures. Through years of mismanagement and lax oversight by Monroe County and FEMA, many Keys homeowners built what they considered legal downstairs enclosures.

Residents with nonconforming disclosures are denied the ability to acquire flood insurance. In an area with a long history of hurricanes and other severe weather events, this is intolerable. Florida Keys homeowners are required to bear the price of mistakes made by the county and FEMA for structures that were issued permits and were legally constructed.

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This is a community which cannot afford the expense of renovating existing structures while they struggle to make ends meet week in and week out. While homeowners continue to struggle with onerous regulations, the issue of water quality is also a major concern for Key West and the entire Keys. The Florida Keys serve as the entry point to Everglades National Park. It's surrounded by the National Marine Sanctuary as well as one of the largest and most vibrant coral reef systems in the world. This is an area of national treasure; and as such, ensuring the cleanliness of the waters surrounding these important ecosystems should be a national concern. Since being elected to represent the Florida Keys in 2002, I have fought hard to bring Federal funding from Washington to the Florida Keys for its wastewater project. To date, the area has received more than \$35 million in congressionally appropriated dollars. I am pleased to note that construction has already started throughout the Florida Keys. And yes, while more Federal funding is needed, I am thankful for the commitment made by Florida Keys residents and the elected officials to utilize existing Federal funds in the near term. The Florida Keys is an area of great beauty, but we must be aware that even in paradise, people go through struggles and through hard times. These hardships take many faces: an individual on the brink of homelessness, a homeowner who is unable to obtain flood insurance due to a downstairs enclosure, or a community worrying about the cleanliness of their water supply. These are some of the daily trials and tribulations that Keys residents sometimes face off of Duval Street.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the time.

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY 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 North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

DENOUNCING THE ATTACK ON CAMP ASHRAF

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

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the brutal attack on the residents of Camp Ashraf, Iranian exiles, by the Iraqi police forces. Yesterday I learned that Iraqi police forces are beating unarmed Camp Ashraf residents and that they have been brutally assaulting them. I have been informed that this attack has resulted in at least eight deaths and over 400 injuries. This beating of unarmed men and women is despicable, and my understanding is that the unjustifiable attack is still underway.

These Iranian exiles are unarmed today because they voluntarily surrendered their weapons to United States forces in exchange for a U.S. guarantee of their security in 2003. They are protected persons under Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The attack on these unarmed persons violates not only international law but also basic human rights. The European Parliament, Amnesty International and other international organizations have expressed deep concern about the safety of these Iranian exiles. Furthermore, when United States forces withdrew from Camp Ashraf, the United States and Iraq signed an agreement that the Iraqi Government would guarantee their safety. The Iraqi Government is not keeping its promise, and it is not upholding its obligations under international law.

The Iranian dictatorship's fingerprints are all over this attack. The residents of Camp Ashraf are enemies of the Iranian regime. Camp Ashraf residents have been a vital source of intelligence information on the Iranian regime's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs and other important intelligence information. As a result, the Iranian regime, under the direction of the tyrannical so-called Supreme Leader, is putting immense pressure on the Iraq Government to hand over the Iranian exiles in Camp Ashraf. In a meeting on February 28 of this year, the Supreme Leader urged the Iraqi president to expel the Iranian exiles at Camp Ashraf immediately.

This incursion by Iraqi forces appears to be an ugly attempt by the Iraqi Government to appease the Iranian regime. They may even return these exiles to Iran. That would be a condemnable and cowardly act. In a public statement on August 28, 2008, Amnesty International expressed profound concern that those

Iranian exiles would suffer torture and even death if they were forced to return. And as we've seen since the sham election on June 12 of this year, the Iranian dictatorship's deep hatred of those who oppose its cruelty and repression would mean almost certain death for the Iranian exiles and their families if they are repatriated to Iran. We must do everything in our power to prevent such an atrocity from taking place.

Already, the Congressional Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus, the chairman and ranking member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the European Parliament's Friends of a Free Iran, the European Parliament's International Committee in Search of Justice and others have expressed deep concern over the treatment of Camp Ashraf residents at the hands of the Iraqi Government. Today Iranian Americans from around the United States have begun a hunger strike at the White House to demand that these attacks be stopped, that abducted Camp Ashraf residents be returned and that international groups such as the United Nations and the Red Cross who want to be able to get into Camp Ashraf be permitted to do so.

I call on President Obama to demand that the Iraqi Government immediately put an end to this attack. We must not stand by and allow physical aggression against unarmed Iranians in exile. We must stand with the Iranian pro-democracy activists, both in exile and inside Iran, who work for the day when the people of Iran can live free, free from fear and free from oppression. We must ensure that the protection that the Iranian exiles were promised by the United States is given to them and that this aggression cease.

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.)

DO NOT CUT THE PRODUCTION OF F-22 AIRCRAFT SHORT

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. The Obama administration and Secretary Gates have gone to great lengths to say that they want to stop the production of the F-22 for the Air Force. I have made a mistake. I have to admit, I have been reading some of the blogs on the comment board, and I am amazed at some of the shallow analysis of this particular decision. So since tomorrow we are going to be debating and discussing the Defense appropriations bill, I would like to take just a few moments today and simply talk about this issue, the F-22 and the Air Force, along four areas.