

weekend, but the President and the Republican surrogates keep saying significant progress is being made.

The Republican idea of keeping America safe is keeping America in the dark, unaware of the truth Republicans have been told behind closed door. Republicans continue to blindly endorse the President's Iraq war because those are the marching orders from the White House. There is no independence from the President. Republicans in the House do exactly as they are instructed.

So when the intelligence community tells Republican leaders the Iraq war is spreading terrorism, the White House tells the Republicans to say something else. U.S. soldiers are fighting and dying in the middle of a civil war, yet the Republicans mechanically recite the same old White House rhetoric.

The only thing that will help America become safer is to face the truth. The Iraq war has made the world more dangerous. Only Republicans disagree with that truth.

The Republican party in power denies the facts of the intelligence community; and they keep telling America you are safer, you are safer. The facts prove the President has been wrong about Iraq all along. The facts prove the President could have changed course but instead chose to keep U.S. soldiers in harm's way and make the world a more dangerous place. And the facts prove the Republican Party abandoned the American people in favor of misleading statements, failed foreign policy, and a President who will stay his own course when America is off course.

America is not safer when the President has a Republican Congress willing to accept White House press releases instead of cold hard assessments from 16 intelligence agencies of the United States Government. America is not safer when the Republican Party's principal weapon in the war on terror is misleading press releases denying our own intelligence community. But that is what the Republicans would have you believe. Republicans think a press release is more important to their future than an intelligence plan that demands we confront Iraq as it really is.

Republicans had the power to change course and work with the Democrats to produce a national plan on the crisis in Iraq. They simply refuse. They go it alone. Republicans had the power to develop a plan for Iraq that was based on facts, not the President's speeches, but they refused. JACK MURTHA, IKE SKELTON, many on our side have offered them alternatives.

The world today is more dangerous, and Republicans will not even accept their own intelligence assessments.

The American people learned two important pieces of information over the weekend: The Iraq war has made the world more dangerous, and the Republican Party is not willing to act on that intelligence. They are not pro-

tecting the American people. They are protecting their own hold on power by denying the horrible mistake that they have made. They will not change course because that would require them to say, well, you know, we did the wrong thing when we let the whole Army go, when we let Abu Ghraib get out of hand. They won't admit that they have made us less safe.

RODNEY JOHNSON, HOUSTON
POLICE OFFICER

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I request permission to address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Houston police officer Rodney Johnson was larger than life. At 6'5", 300 pounds, strangers were intimidated by him. But those who knew him knew a gentle giant who always did the right thing; and because of his honor and loyalty, he was respected and well-liked by fellow officers and citizens.

He was a loving husband. He was married to a fellow HPD officer, Joslyn; and he was a dedicated father to three daughters and two sons. But those three daughters will never again run to meet their father when he comes home, those two sons will never play ball with their father, and a wife who will now face every day as a single mother. All because a man who made a habit of running from the law finally got caught.

On Thursday, September 21, 2006, as the sun was setting in Texas, Officer Rodney Johnson made his last routine traffic stop. He didn't know the outlaw he arrested was hiding a pistol in his pants, and this desperado took desperate measures.

What happened next wasn't just homicide. It was robbery, robbery of Officer Johnson's life, and it was stolen from him, from his family, and from a community that loved him. Stolen by a man who had no regard for the law or lawmen.

This criminal was sitting behind Officer Johnson in that patrol car. He was handcuffed, but this bandit withdrew a hidden pistol and fired it. Even the thick plastic partition meant to protect peace officers couldn't survive the blast. At point-blank range, Officer Johnson was shot four times in the back and in the face.

Although fatally wounded, Officer Johnson pushed an emergency response button alerting dispatch, "officer down, officer down." And when his fellow officers in blue rushed to the scene, the criminal still had the smoking gun in his hand, and he even took another shot at a wrecker driver.

The vitality, loyalty and all of the virtues that Johnson stood for were drained from his body; and the family and fellow officers feel shock and rage for his death. Other families who he

protected every day are saddened as well.

One neighbor says, "It just breaks my heart. I feel so bad for his wife. He got up and went to work this morning, and this is what happened to him. This is what happened to one of the people who protects us, the citizens. He truly cared about us."

They weren't the only ones Johnson took care of. He once rushed into a burning building thinking not what the flames would do to him but only what the flames were doing to the children trapped inside.

It was not his only heroic act. Others earned him lifesaving awards, and the prestigious Medal of Valor was given to him by the citizens of Houston.

This native Houstonian served in the United States Army as a military police officer. Back in the great State of Texas, he spent several years as a corrections officer, as a jailer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; and, finally, in 1994, Rodney Johnson was sworn in as a Houston police officer.

He would spend the next 12 years of his life protecting and serving the citizens of Houston, Texas, his hometown. And since 1996, Officer Johnson has been a well-respected member of the Southeast Houston Gang Task Force.

Some say he could have been a superman because of his size with his commanding presence and mission to help others. He protected the communities and ensured justice for all.

Sadly, his kryptonite was a downfall for our Nation. Our inability to shut down the borders, our inability to send illegals home and make sure they didn't come back.

This criminal who shot Officer Rodney Johnson murdered him because he feared being deported back to Mexico again. Juan Quintero is a lawless illegal whose disregard for the United States and its rules started when he illegally set foot in American soil. He was deported once for indecency with a child, but he came back to finish a string of crimes. Having snuck back into America, he then shot an American lawman in the back.

During the 25th Annual National Peace Officers Memorial service in June, a powerful statement was given to honor those who had fallen in the line of duty. I reiterate this statement. It says, "Well served peace officer, may you rest in peace."

But I add, may our country's poorly enforced border control policies also rest in peace so we may never again see another family member put through what this family has endured because of lawless illegals who never should have been here in the first place.

Officer Johnson is a role model for future officers who wear the badge. We wish his family the best as they mourn for their superman. The Houston community has poured out their hearts for his family, and people have started donating money to his five children.

But our task is not complete. We must strengthen the border for his five

children and all of America's children. Peace officers, Mr. Speaker, are the last strand of wire in the fence between the good and the evil. They wear the badge with pride, and tonight the peace officers wear the black cloth of sacrifice against their badges.

Mr. Speaker, God bless Officer Johnson.

And that's just the way it is.

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THE IRAQ WAR

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend the New York Times published an article entitled "Spy Agencies say Iraq War Worsens Terrorism Threat." The article goes on to describe an April 2006, a National Intelligence Estimate which reports the consensus of the 16 U.S. intelligence agencies that the American invasion and occupation of Iraq has helped spawn a new generation of Islamic radicalism and that the overall terrorist threat has grown since the September 11 attacks.

The NIE report concludes that the radical Islamic movement has expanded from a core of al Qaeda operatives to include a new class of "self-generating" cells inspired by al Qaeda's leadership, but without any direct connection to Osama bin Laden or his top lieutenants, which will be difficult to monitor and disrupt. One official quoted in the article says "that the Iraq war has made the overall terrorism problem worse."

Mr. Speaker and Members, what are we doing? What is this administration doing, and what is this American President thinking about? He is sending more troops to Iraq. The Army announced today that it has extended the combat tours of about 4,000 soldiers who normally would be returning home and is considering sending more combat units to Iraq in order to meet the needs in Iraq. Many of the troops in Iraq are on their second and even third deployment to Iraq. The additional troops are necessary because of the sectarian violence that encompasses much of the country. Many experts have concluded that Iraq is in a civil war.

Mr. Speaker and Members, the President of the United States has said more than once that we are not getting out of Iraq, that we will stand down when the Iraqis stand up, and they would have you believe that we are training Iraqi soldiers and that they are going to take over the responsibility of securing that country.

It is not happening, Mr. Speaker and Members. As a matter of fact, some of the Iraqi soldiers that have been trained are abandoning our soldiers in the middle of conflict. I read an account just a few days ago where our

American soldiers got in the middle of a confrontation of a battle, I think, between Sunnis and Shiites, and they were watched by the Iraqi soldiers who were with them who literally stepped back and let the American soldiers be responsible for trying to resolve that fight that was going on.

We hear stories not only about Iraqi soldiers who abandoned our soldiers but who are really inside, being trained by us, with American taxpayer dollars being spent on training them when they simply turn on us. They are not with us to begin with. They are there to spy on us, and they are undermining us.

For God's sake, what are we doing? This occupation is not only causing the deaths of young American men and women, almost 3,000. It is robbing this country of its resources. Well over \$300 billion has been spent on this war in Iraq, and that is not to add to the amount of money in Afghanistan. We went to Iraq because supposedly we were making Americans safer. We are at greater risk now than we have ever been. We are certainly at greater risk and less secure than we were before 9/11.

And not only that, why didn't we track Osama bin Laden up through Afghanistan to that border between Pakistan and Afghanistan where we believe he really is? But no. We told the American public that it was Saddam Hussein. We have spent all of this money. We have occupied it, and we still don't have Osama bin Laden. Osama bin Laden, I believe, is being protected by the Pakistanis. I believe that Mr. Musharraf, who is supposed to be our ally, whom we are giving money to, knows a lot more than he is telling us. But one thing I know for sure, he won't allow us to come into Pakistan and he just created a pact with the Taliban. The Taliban is back in control. The poppy seeds are flowing. The dope is flowing. It has been tracked all the way to Chicago.

The American people had better get their heads out of the sand, and we had better do our oversight job and bring our soldiers home. Stop this war in Iraq.

TWO CAPTIVE ISRAELI SOLDIERS AND PROBLEMS WITH THE U.N.

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on July 12 of this year, Hezbollah guerillas killed three Israeli soldiers and kidnapped another two, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev. All the while Hezbollah continued to launch rockets at civilian targets in northern Israel. These actions against Israel's sovereignty sparked Israel's defensive measures and the subsequent escalation of the conflict. In the end, as a direct consequence of Hezbollah's belligerence, more than 1,000 Lebanese

and Israeli civilians lay dead and the infrastructure of Lebanon lay in ruins.

When the cease-fire was brokered by the United Nations, it was the understanding of all parties, especially Israel, that the U.N. would work toward the release of Israel's kidnapped soldiers. Today, however, more than 2 months later, those two brave young men remain in captivity and their families remain uncertain of their future.

Furthermore, Hezbollah remains armed with as many as 20,000 rockets aimed at Israel, according to this group's own claims. Just this past Friday, Mr. Speaker, Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, threw a victory rally in Lebanon, taunting Israel, the peace-seeking government of Lebanon, and the United Nations as well with the probability that no one will ever see these two soldiers alive again. In fact, not only did Nasrallah note that these soldiers would only be returned in exchange for some of its jailed terrorist foot soldiers; he also vowed that neither the U.N. nor the Lebanese troops would ever be allowed to disarm Hezbollah guerilla troops in southern Israel and threatened the Western-friendly Lebanese Government of the Prime Minister.

There can be no doubt that Nasrallah and Hezbollah have become bolder, more dangerous, and graver threats to the peace in the Middle East.

And yet Israel has honorably abided by the terms of the cease-fire as a sign of good faith and its commitment of peace in the region. It leaves one to wonder at the effectiveness of the U.N. to rectify this still unresolved injustice. This situation brings to light yet another example of the dramatic shortcomings of the U.N. in its ability to carry out the good that it was originally planned for and created.

In fact, at the very time that the United Nations was seeking to implement this cease-fire in Lebanon, it was entertaining the Iranian Prime Minister, who surprised no one with his tirade against the U.N. General Assembly, alternating between anti-American vitriol and ad hominem attacks against Israel as well.

Of course, if the United Nations is going to be an effective broker for peace and a conduit for diplomacy, it must itself be above reproach. The United Nations' track record, however, with regard to Israel specifically is unbalanced at best and anti-Semitic at worst. In just a single session of the U.N. General Assembly, it passed 21 individual resolutions criticizing Israel. And over its 30-year period of time, the U.N. has actually funded three organizations that disseminate anti-Israeli propaganda. Furthermore, only Israel has been called upon to defend itself as an individual agenda item before the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

Even on a more general level, as I have discussed here before, it is little wonder that the U.N. has lacked the credibility to broker international agreements, let alone enforce them.