

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