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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 10, 2004

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ERIC DELL  
CHIEF OF STAFF

Dear Colleague,

Attached for your review is "Iraq's Legacy of Terror: Mass Graves," a report by the U.S. Agency for International Development, an independent federal government agency assisting Iraqis as they reconstruct their country in coordination with the Coalition Provisional Authority. The report may also be accessed on the internet at <http://www.usaid.gov/iraq/legacyofterror.html>.

"Iraq's Legacy of Terror" highlights the worst human rights atrocities of Saddam Hussein's regime. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, including women and children with bullet holes, lie in at least 270 mass grave sites around the country, according to the U.S. and British governments. Officials say the effort to unearth all of the graves will take years.

Saddam Hussein's mass graves, under current estimates, represent a crime against humanity surpassed in scope only by the World War II Nazi Holocaust, Pol Pot's Cambodian killing fields in the 1970s, and the Rwandan genocide of 1994. Mass graves are also an atrocity in and of themselves because they violate the Koran's law of Islam requiring specific burial rituals—to bury someone in this manner is meant to portray them as sub-human. The Coalition Provisional Authority is working with thousands of Iraqi families to exhume, identify, and rebury their loved ones.

The sites have international implications. The remains of over 100 Kuwaitis, for instance, have already been found. This finding constitutes yet another violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 686 and 687, which called on Saddam Hussein to return all citizens of Kuwait detained during Iraq's seven-month occupation of its neighboring country.

Like the concentration camps American soldiers liberated in Europe sixty years ago, Iraq's mass graves are a testament to the savagery of Saddam Hussein as well as a constant reminder of his intentions and capabilities.

Sincerely,



JOE WILSON  
Member of Congress

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