

San Mateo County Times

Lantos calls for hearings on prison abuse

By Justin Jouvenal
STAFF WRITER

Wednesday, May 12, 2004 - Congressman Tom Lantos, D-San Mateo, has called for hearings on the causes and effects of the Iraqi prison abuse scandal before two committees in the House of Representatives.

Lantos has asked for the hearings before the House International Relations Committee and the House Government Reform Committee. Lantos is the ranking Democrat on International Relations.

"This affair has damaged our country's credibility and crippled our efforts to advance peace in the Middle East," Lantos said in a statement. "To restore our damaged standing in the global community, we need to ensure accountability."

Lantos said there appears to be a concerted effort by House Republicans to block investigations of the Abu Ghraib prison incidents. Lantos also has joined with 50 members of the House to call for a nonpartisan investigation into the U.S. government's use of private military firms for security duty in Iraq.

Staff writer Justin Jouvenal can be reached at (650) 348-4331 or jjouvenal@sanmateocountytimes.com.