

other hard-working crew members who do an honest day's work and want a fair shake when it comes to paying their taxes.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply concerned that a significant number of interstate waterway employees who are employed on vessels that operate on the Columbia River, the Mississippi, the Ohio, the Missouri, the Kanawha, and many other inland waterways throughout this Nation may be double or even triple-taxed for their labor. These river pilots, officers and other crew members perform most of their work on rivers which flow through multiple States, and in many cases these folks are subject to income tax filings and additional withholdings from multiple States.

The rivers these folks navigate, whether it be for shipping, for transporting passengers, for tourism or other purposes often course through the territories of multiple States. That is a fact of nature, and because of that fact the folks who ply their trade on these rivers are subject to taxation by several States. That is simply not fair.

When truck drivers, railway workers and aviation employees go about their jobs, all of whom are required to conduct their work in States other than their home State, Congress has seen fit to grant them an exemption from this double or triple taxation unless a majority of the work is performed in another State.

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This is not so for interstate waterway employees. No. If one is a crew member on a barge, they can be required to pay taxes in several States, and that is simply not fair.

An airline pilot, for example, is subject to taxation by the State in which the pilot resides, period. Only if pilots earn 50 percent or more of their income while working in another State are they subject to taxation by that other State. This restriction, for all practical purposes, exempts airline employees from multiple taxation. However, interstate water carriers, bargemen, river boat pilots, ferry boat operators, for some reason these people are treated differently, and that is simply not fair.

Frankly, Madam Speaker, it is a clear example of taxation without representation, an obvious oversight of this body.

Over the past 22 years, Congress has acted to address inequities in the Tax Code when it dealt with interstate transportation employees. I am asking my colleagues today to again take action to address and correct this problem.

Interstate waterway employees are devoted, hard working folks, who provide essential transportation services throughout our Nation and pay their fair share of taxes in their home States. Additionally, the companies which employ these workers contribute significantly to the economic well-

being of the State's concerns. Yet, Madam Speaker, due to an existing oversight, workers living in my district in southwest Washington may be subject to additional tax burdens imposed by other States along the Columbia River.

The current law allows States to impose additional taxes based on the percentage of time their vessel was docked or operating in those States' waters and I will say it again, that is simply not fair.

Madam Speaker, we can do something about that. We can make the law fair and we can make it apply equally to everyone.

Madam Speaker, the legislation I am introducing today, the Transportation Employee Fair Taxation Act of 1999, will correct this oversight.

My bill will expressly prohibit the taxation of income earned by waterway workers by States other than the ones in which the workers reside. It will close the unfortunate loophole that says we treat all the other groups of interstate workers one way and bargemen and river pilots the other.

It is not complex legislation. It is very straightforward. It is not lengthy legislation. It is a two-page bill. But it is good legislation. It is needed legislation and it is fair legislation. I am proud to say also that it is bipartisan legislation.

Of the 12 original cosponsors of this measure, 8 are Democrats and 4 are Republicans. So I urge my colleagues from both parties to join in this effort, to ensure tax fairness for all of our citizens by taking swift action to pass this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

NEEDED: JUSTICE AND A POLITICAL SOLUTION FOR THE KURDISH PEOPLE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, before we adjourn for our spring district work period, I wanted to draw attention to the plight of the Kurdish people.

There was a lot of attention to this otherwise usually ignored issue last month with the apprehension of Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the Kurdistan Workers Party, the PKK.

Mr. Ocalan has been fighting for autonomy for the Kurdish people who are the victims of oppression by Turkey, as well as Iraq, Iran and Syria. The Turkish regime refuses to even acknowledge the Kurds' existence, referring to them

as Mountain Turks, prohibiting all expression of Kurdish culture and language in an effort to forcibly assimilate them, and jailing, torturing or killing Kurdish leaders.

The Iraqi regime has used poison gas on its Kurds and has destroyed 4,000 Kurdish villages. The Iranian regime has lined them up against firing squads, while the Syrian regime barely tolerates them with no rights.

Madam Speaker, while the treatment of the Kurds in Iraq, Iran and Syria is deplorable, the Turkish mistreatment of the Kurdish people is particularly shocking for a very basic reason. Turkey is considered an ally of the United States, a member of NATO, and the recipient over many years of millions in economic and especially military assistance courtesy of the American taxpayer. This embarrassing record of American support for the Turkish regime reached a new low last month when our intelligence and diplomatic services actually helped a Turkish commando team to capture Mr. Ocalan in Kenya. This action violates the spirit of the torture convention to which the United States is a signatory.

Mr. Ocalan, had he been here in the United States I cannot imagine that he would have been turned over to Turkey, just as Italy refused to do so when he was in Italy. This shameful collaboration with Turkey has resulted in Mr. Ocalan being held in solitary confinement on an island prison in Turkey with no access to his international team of lawyers.

Plans call for him to be tried in a secret military-type court with no jury and no foreign observers.

Given the unlawfulness of this abduction and the illegitimacy of the state security court's tribunal, there is ample reason to assume that Mr. Ocalan will not receive a fair trial.

Madam Speaker, I want to note that the injustice of the Ocalan abduction and trial and the much larger issue of the oppression of the Kurdish people has not gone unnoticed around the world. Here in Washington over the past weekend, a rally was held across the street from the Turkish Embassy. The Congressional Human Rights Caucus and the Human Rights Alliance recently commemorated the 11th anniversary of Saddam Hussein's massacre of over 5,000 Kurds in the village of Halabja.

The suffering of the Kurdish people has not gone completely unnoticed but we need to do more for the Kurdish people. The government of Turkey's undeclared war on the Kurds has claimed close to 40,000 lives and caused more than 3 million people to become refugees.

Mr. Ocalan's appearance in Rome with a pledge that he was ready to renounce violence presented an opportunity for peace but neither Turkey nor the United States took him up on his offer.

Madam Speaker, let me say it is not too late. We should use our leverage

over Turkey to demand that an international tribunal prosecute Mr. Ocalan since Turkey is at war with the Kurds and cannot be expected to conduct a fair trial. I hope that the European Union to which Turkey is seeking admission will also put pressure on Turkey. We must demand a fair trial for Mr. Ocalan but this should only be a first step in our efforts to press Turkey to enter into negotiations to achieve a political solution to this ongoing struggle. This is fundamentally in Turkey's interest, too, in the long run, since they cannot continue to keep down 35 million people living in their midst.

On January 21, we celebrated, or the Kurds celebrated their new year, which is called Newroz, symbolizing a day of resistance and deliverance from tyranny for the Kurds. In that spirit, I hope that we will soon witness a turning point from the terrible tragedies that the Kurdish people have experienced and instead see the rebirth of a strong and free Kurdistan.

Madam Speaker, this week U.S. forces have gone into the battle in the former Yugoslavia in an effort to prevent the genocide of the Kosovar people. I strongly support that effort which shows America at its best and I hope that the same resolve and sense of outrage that caused us to act to protect the Kosovars will finally motivate America and the free world to put an end to the genocide of the Kurdish people.

Let me point out that the Kurdish new year, Madam Speaker, was actually last Sunday, March 21, Newroz, and that was the day when the Kurds celebrate their new year.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to speak to one issue which is of some national significance because it evidences a pattern that is occurring, and that is illegal immigration from China.

I would like to point out that, Madam Speaker, that Guam is a very isolated community from Washington, D.C. It is some 9,000 miles away and it is the closest U.S. soil to China.

During the past year, there has been an inordinate amount of illegal immigration into Guam from China, and we assumed that it was from perhaps nearby the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, but as it has turned out these are illegal immigrants who come in on fishing boats directly from the Province of Fujing inside China.

This kind of illegal immigration is not the kind of illegal immigration that we normally assume exists, which is that people are fleeing either for political reasons or looking for an economic better way of life.

All of those might be part of this, but usually when we watch the kinds of things that occur on our southern border or perhaps some of the illegal immigration which is coming from Haiti or in the Caribbean Sea, other parts of the Caribbean Sea, we witness people who are risking life and limb in order to better themselves economically. If they are successful, they go on and live their lives as members of individual families and indeed frequently find a better way of life.

In this case, what we have is an illegal stream of immigrants that is primarily orchestrated by criminal organizations inside China commonly referred to as "snakeheads." Last year, and Guam last a very small population, it is estimated that over 700 arrived through this manner and since the beginning of this year alone there has already been 254, and some 97 were simply apprehended off the coast of Guam, in Agat, last weekend.

What these people undergo is that they pay anywhere from \$10,000 to \$30,000 for the privilege of being put in a fishing boat usually under a hundred feet and there may be as many as 200 or 300 of them inside this fishing boat. Then they are taken out in the open ocean and they arrive on Guam, and they usually try to come in on small boats so we do not know what exactly the dynamics of the stream is like. If they are caught, they immediately ask for political asylum.

If they are successful in this, and they invariably are, they then enter a period of what can only be termed as indentured servitude for these snakehead organizations for the next 10 to 20 years, probably working below the minimum wage in some underground economy inside this country.

So this problem, and the use of political asylum on Guam, and claims to political asylum by these illegal immigrants, do not necessarily benefit the immigrants themselves but is part of a well constructed, well organized criminal activity that is orchestrated from inside China in the Fuqing province.

The People's Republic of China themselves are embarrassed by this, as I understand it. These are criminal organizations that are acting on their own.

The way to solve this problem is to eliminate or narrow the gap for claims of political asylum on Guam. This in no way means that I myself or the people of Guam are not in favor of political asylum, but in this instance what has happened is that these snakehead organizations have used the political asylum mechanism in order to benefit their criminal activities, which are well documented in these articles, and to create and to prey on the hopes of these people inside China and then to continue to prey upon them once they are successfully brought into this country.

I have introduced legislation for this purpose, to give latitude to INS officers in Guam, and this is possible under the Immigration and Naturalization Act,

to carve out special laws and regulations for insular jurisdictions of the United States.

I hope that there is widespread support for this. This is an important issue not only for us but it is a good way to stop illegal immigration and to benefit criminal organizations inside China.

Madam Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD six articles of the Pacific Daily News. These articles point out in great detail the dynamics of this.

95 APPREHENDED IN AGAT—6 WOMEN, 12 CHILDREN AMONG GROUP IN INS CUSTODY

(By Hiroshi Hiyama.—Pacific Daily News)

Six women and a dozen children are among 95 Chinese nationals who were apprehended early yesterday morning after their ship ran aground on a reef off Agat.

It was the largest number of suspected illegal immigrants and smugglers caught at one time, followed by the 79 apprehended in January.

Yesterday's apprehension brings the tally to about 235 suspected illegal immigrants caught on and around Guam this year.

It began when 32 people were spotted on the beach by police Officer Frank Cepeda, who was patrolling near the old Agat cemetery around 2 a.m., according to police spokesman Marc Howard.

Their ship had run aground earlier on the reef off Agat, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. The rusty, 120-foot fishing vessel had no identifying markings.

After the accident, the ship's six-member crew jumped on a smaller boat, telling their passengers that they would go ashore to get help.

Shortly afterward, 32 passengers jumped off the fishing vessel, suspecting that the crew members wouldn't come back to rescue them, Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer John Howk said.

They were the group approached by Cepeda at the Agat beach. They offered no resistance, and a handful of police officers marched the group to the Agat precinct, Howard said.

At the same time, police contacted the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Guam police and fire officials launched their own boats to check the fishing vessel. The Coast Guard also launched the cutter Galveston Island and a Navy HC-5 helicopter to tend the vessel.

On the ship, local and federal officers found 57 people huddled together, waiting for assistance, Howk said.

Officials later caught the six crew members on an Agat shoreline, bringing the total number of apprehensions to 95, Howk said.

The Chinese nationals hadn't had food or water for the past few days, said Joe Galoski, INS supervisory special agent.

None showed signs of illness, and they were fed and cleaned by federal and local officials.

They spent roughly 11 days at sea traveling from the Fujian province in southern China to Guam, Galoski said.

They were taken to the Department of Corrections yesterday, where they spent the night with dozens of other suspected Chinese illegal immigrants who had been apprehended in previous incidents.

A few who have been here awhile have picked up a few English words and helped local prison officials to clean the newcomers' belongings.

The investigation into yesterday's apprehension will continue today, officials said.

The fishing vessel was towed to Victor Wharf, where the Coast Guard office is located.