

the continued campaign of terrorism against innocent civilians in Jammu and Kashmir is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of Kashmir frequently gets mentioned in the geopolitical calculations over the larger India-Pakistan conflict. There is overwhelming evidence of Pakistani covert support for the continued terror campaign in Jammu and Kashmir. There has, at the same time, been an overt Pakistani effort to internationalize this issue by bringing the United States, or other world powers and international organizations, into the negotiations. The one aspect of this tragedy that frequently is overlooked is the plight of the Hindu community of this region, the so-called Kashmiri Pandits.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to reiterate my calls for increased American and world attention to the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits, victims of massacres and displacement, such as the atrocity of last month.

As I have gotten to know the Kashmiri-American community and hearing about the situation facing the Kashmiri Pandits, I have become increasingly outraged, not only at the terrible abuses they have suffered but at the seeming indifference of the world community.

At the same time, I am impressed by the dignity and the determination that the Kashmiri Pandits have maintained despite these horrible conditions. I am touched by the deep concern that the Kashmiri-Americans feel for their brothers and sisters living in Kashmir or in the refugee center set up in India to accommodate the Pandits driven from their homes in the Kashmir Valley.

Recently, my colleagues in the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans asked me to co-chair a Task Force on Kashmir. I look forward to working with my colleagues to focus increased Congressional attention on this issue.

Some of my colleagues and I have already been pressing these issues, but clearly we need to give the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits greater recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked India's National Human Rights Commission to consider declaring the Kashmiri Pandits an Internally Displaced People and provide conditions for the safe return of the Pandit community to the Kashmir Valley.

I have also asked the Commission to substantiate the ongoing genocide that the Pandits are suffering. I would also encourage the Indian government to consider officially recognizing the Kashmiri Pandit community as a minority under Indian law to provide additional benefits and protection.

Mr. Speaker, the Kashmiri Pandits have an ancient and a proud culture. Their roots in the Valley run deep. Virtually the entire population of 300,000 Kashmiri Pandits has been forced to leave their ancestral homes and property.

Today, only 2,000 Kashmiri Pandits remain in the Valley. Threatened with violence and intimidation, they have been turned into refugees in their own country.

Although Pakistani officials maintain that their country only provides "moral and political support" for the insurgency, evidence shows that Pakistan has been playing a direct role in arming and training the militants who have converted the Kashmir Valley from an earthly paradise into a living hell.

Last year, I urged Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to raise the Kashmiri Pandit issue whenever Kashmir is discussed by the United States and India. I have also asked the Indian government to bring up the Pandits issue in any bilateral discussion between India and Pakistan.

The United Nations Human Rights Commission also needs to address the Kashmiri Pandit issue, including it in its periodic reports on Kashmir, as well as through the Commission Subcommittee on Minorities. I will also continue urging action by UNICEF to provide educational grants to benefit the Kashmiri Pandit children and the World Health Organization support to improve health and sanitation.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, in the great international debate over arms control and security issues, it is sometimes all too easy to overlook the so-called small problem of one persecuted ethnic group. I just hope that the United States and India, as the world's two largest democracies, will show determination to finally address this humanitarian catastrophe that the Kashmiri Pandits are facing in an effective and humane way.

PROMISES MADE AND PROMISES KEPT

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, in 1995, we talked about promises that were made and promises that we needed to keep. We talked specifically about the budget. It is hard to remember, but just 4 years ago, the deficit was nearing \$300 billion. The debt was skyrocketing. What did that mean to Americans? That meant that interest rates on mortgages, on cars, on college loans were soaring through the roof. In fact, it looked like there was no end in sight to deficit after deficit after deficit.

So we stepped up to the challenge. We presented the first plan to balance America's budget in a generation. We heard the President. We heard the Vice President. We heard many Members on the left. We heard the media talking about how balancing the budget under our plan in 7 years would destroy the economy. In fact, that is what the President said.

Well, we did not listen to the naysayers. We fought. We passed our plan. The President still objected. In fact, that fall, he vetoed nine bills,

shut down the Federal Government and, as only the President can do, blamed it on us.

Well, we kept the fight alive. Finally, in 1997, amid troubling reports that if the President did nothing the budget would balance itself, he decided to come to the table and sign the plan that would balance our budget for the first time in a generation.

We listened to Alan Greenspan in 1995. Greenspan said, in 1995, if we followed the Republican plan, the John Kasich plan to balance the budget, we would see unprecedented growth in our time. We would see college loans and interest rates go down. We would see mortgages interest rates going down. We would see economic explosion. Well, we kept our word. We kept the fight alive. Finally, the President came to the table. We signed the plan, and the economy has prospered because of it.

Now, 2 years later, we are again faced with a decision. Do we follow political expediency? Do we follow the easy route that was followed by the Democratic Chamber in this House for 40 years? Do we play the game the way they used to play the game? Or do we keep our word on budgetary issues?

We laid out budget caps in 1997. We said, this is how we are going to run our Federal Government for the next 5 years. It was very simple. The caps were laid out. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) said, this is the way we need to go. Well, I agreed with him then, and I agree with him now.

We have to continue remaining fiscally disciplined. If we do that, we will not only see the economy continue to explode, we will not only continue to see interest rates going down, we will see something else happen that has not happened in Washington for a long time. We will see a group of leaders who are truly respected across the country for keeping their word.

Because, in the end, this is not about a deficit. This is not about budgetary issues. This is about whether our elected leaders in Washington, D.C., say what they mean and mean what they say. Promises made, promises kept. It made sense in 1995, and it makes sense in 1999.

SUDAN

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, last week, we had Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in front of the Committee on International Relations delivering an address detailing activities of the Department of State over the last year, identifying all of the hot spots in the world where American interests were at stake, identifying what the United States of America was doing about them.

It was intriguing, Mr. Speaker, because, in over half an hour of a normal presentation and certainly maybe 20 or

30 pages of written presentation that discussed in every way all of the issues that we could possibly confront in foreign policy position, there was one that was conspicuous for its absence, one spot in the world that was never mentioned, one nation that was never brought to the attention of the Committee on International Relations or, as a matter of fact, it has not been brought to the attention of this Nation by this administration, and that is the nation of Sudan.

There, as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) said so eloquently a little bit ago, in the last 15 years, over 2 million people have died in that civil war. That is more than have died in Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Rwanda combined. Yet, in the face of this tragedy, what we have seen has been a lackluster attempt on the part of this administration to deal with it.

Mr. Speaker, I was asked by a teacher at Highline Community School, which is in the Cherry Creek School District in my District, a class again to which my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia, referred, I was asked by her to deliver a message to the Secretary of State; and I did.

The message was in the form of a question from Ms. Vogel, the teacher of this class, this fourth and fifth grade class, to the Secretary of State; and it said essentially this, "Why is it that you, the government of our own country, and members of the world community, have decided to turn a blind eye to the tortured land of the Sudan?"

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And I communicated that concern to the Secretary and I got a response, a written response, from someone in her office. I delivered that response yesterday to the school in my district. It was one of the most incredible experiences of the time I have spent in public life; to look at these children and this teacher, who have committed and dedicated themselves to the ominous task of raising money to free human beings that have been dragged into slavery in a country all the way around the world.

This class read about this situation over a year ago and became so concerned that they organized a group that is now worldwide. They call it STOP, Slavery That Oppresses People. It has raised over \$100,000. This 4th grade class in Highline Community School has raised \$100,000 and purchased the freedom of over 1,000 individuals in the Sudan. Mr. Speaker, in the entire world we have been able to muster enough support to purchase the freedom the a total of 5,000, yet 1,000 come from this one classroom, this one elementary school. It is really quite extraordinary, and it was an extraordinary day yesterday.

I will enter them into the RECORD, but I want to read a couple of the cards I received yesterday. Each student wrote a personal card, a personal message to me, and some of them are real-

ly quite moving. I will not go through them all, but just some of them. And, remember, these are, again, 5th graders.

"Our hearts are noble, so we use the noble heart to do good for others." By Dong Cho.

"Dear Congressman: Hi, I'm Christina Manalostas. We bring love and courage from our life, and give it to others in sadness."

"God must have put us here on earth for a reason. That reason was not to put people in slavery or to separate races. He put us here to live free, to have freedom. He just wanted to give everyone an opportunity for everything. Love, Charles."

"There is nothing worse than seeing a person suffer for what they believe in." Deven Eastman.

I can go on and on like that, Mr. Speaker, but I will not. I will enter them into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I will tell my colleagues that what these children have done and what they are continuing to do far surpasses the efforts that the whole government of the United States has put forward to date, and I simply want to commend them and thank them from the bottom of my heart for such an inspirational day as I spent yesterday.

The personal messages referred to above are as follows:

I thank God for using these children to remind me of the true spirit of giving! We have love for all people in the world!

BARB VOGEL.

"Caring is living the meaning of life."—Richard Lucas, Age 13, Upper Arlington, OH.

If we can eradicate slavery then the world will be a better place.

Love,

CYNTHIA JARANGO.

"Maybe if we looked deep inside ourselves we would find the roots of today's problems and also the solutions. Man creates problems through his temptation; maybe he could solve them through caring."—Alicia Hartman, Age 17, Northeast, PA.

A lot of beautiful souls are in slavery and it needs to stop.

KRISTIN YOUNG.

"A nation with citizens who care and look out for each other is a great nation; it will not fall apart."—Dwain Simmons, Age 14, Houston, TX.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN DAN: Thank you for coming to our class. Also, thank you for supporting our campaign. I am an abolitionist and my name is Lè Shai.

Sincerely,

LÈ SHAI.

When you put your mind to something, you can achieve anything.

JOSHUA FLEMING.

If we didn't eradicate slavery how would other people be free?

Sincerely,

DAVID WALKER.

Power is in people! Don't be lazy take action to help others.

Love,

ALEX J. PERSINGER.

Even though Frederick Douglass is dead, I still believe that his spirit lives in every abolitionist in the world.

MELVIN HARMON.

The greatest power of our time is love for all people!

Love,

THOMAS TURNER.

Unless the world is perfect, without any problems, we need to take a stand and help others.

LINDY DESPAIN.

The world needs the caring majority.

Love,

ALPHONSO McDONALD.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: I would like to thank you for joining our campaign. We appreciate your work.

Love,

JAMES COLEMAN.

Slavery is wrong, and someone needs to take a stand. Adults are not doing enough, so kids are doing something more.

NICOLE CIMINO.

We can't have just a little group of abolitionists we need a large group.

Love,

JOSH HOOK.

There is a sin, from the past, it is slavery and kids are doing something about it!

Love,

MIRIAM MORENO.

God made us different, because He knew that we would be beautiful!

STACY CARUSO.

Freedom is one of the world's greatest treasures. What has happened to it?

DONI TAIKALUS.

Our hearts are noble, so use the noble heart to do good for others.

DONG CHO.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: Hi, I'm Christina Manalastas. We bring love and courage from our life, and give it to others in sadness.

Sincerely,

CHRISTINA MANALASTAS.

God must have put us here on earth for a reason. That reason was not to put people in slavery, or to separate races. He put us here to live free, to have freedom. He just wanted to give everyone an opportunity for everything.

Love,

CHARLES.

There is nothing worse than seeing a person suffer for what they believe in.

KEVEN EASTMAN.

CUBA REMAINS A STALINIST STATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the past few weeks the Castro dictatorship has initiated an all-out crackdown on the internal opposition and the independent press, who day after day fight for freedom, for democracy and for human rights in Cuba.