

recognized for this fine effort. The terrorists believed they could accomplish their goals with the murder of American innocents; but the American citizens have responded with aid to the innocents of Afghanistan. Nothing else could better show how utterly Al Qaeda has failed.

Mr. Speaker, as President Bush said in his announcement of the Fund for Afghan Children, "One of the truest weapons that we have against terrorism is to show the world the true strength of character of the American people." The children of Memorial School have shown that character, and they deserve our thanks. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

#### GUATEMALA'S 36-YEAR CIVIL WAR

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the genocide that was committed during Guatemala's 36-year civil war, although far exceeding the death tolls reached in Bosnia, as well as in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Argentina and Chile combined, has yet to receive proper attention from the international community. Fortunately, the slow march of justice may finally be reaching Guatemala, as indigenous Mayan survivors of over a dozen massacres—out of an estimated 600 committed during that era—are speaking out, accusing former dictator Efraín Ríos Montt of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

An association of surviving indigenous Maya is specifically suing the ex-general on charges related to the massacres in which 1,200 lives were lost. At these bloodlettings, which occurred between March and December 1982, peasants throughout the Mayan highlands were raped, tortured and murdered, with their bodies tossed into the large pits serving as mass graves. The locations of these ossuaries were known for years, but left undisturbed until recently.

During Guatemala's bloody three-decade old civil war, more than 200,000 died and millions were displaced as Ríos Montt rose to power, eventually leading a military coup that seized control of the government in 1982. Once in office, Ríos Montt took the civil war to new levels of violence by attacking the thousands of indigenous Maya who he claimed comprised the bulk of the revolutionaries. Under the ensuing reign of terror, he utilized notorious Civil Defense patrols and "model" villages (officially known as social re-adaptation centers), which were akin to concentration camps. Males thirteen and older were required to serve in Civil Defense patrols, which operated as paramilitary units supervised by the army, with their mission being to act as informants and kill suspected guerrillas. The most devastating of Ríos Montt's actions was the implementation of the "scorched earth" policy, which called for hundreds of villages to be burned to the ground and thousands of innocent people to be tortured and murdered.

To this day, Ríos Montt continues to retain plenary power within Guatemala's government, as president of Congress and de facto president of the country, by controlling the country's nominal president, Alfonso Portillo,

who has been denounced for alleged corruption by many Guatemalans. Furthermore, since the initiation of the case against Ríos Montt, terror and incessant threats have followed those pursuing justice.

Observers feel that if successfully argued, the case against Ríos Montt could form the basis of hope for national reconciliation regarding the bitter memories of the victims of the atrocities committed against the Mayan community during the 36-year conflict. To only bring the case to trial would represent a most notable victory for those involved, as well as for the country's otherwise discredited judicial system, setting a precedent that hopefully could serve as a formidable deterrent for those contemplating the future use of terror against the public.

#### THE COUNCIL ON HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS

The Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), a nonprofit, tax-exempt independent research and information organization, was founded at the end of 1975 to promote the common interest of the hemisphere, raise the visibility and increase the importance of the inter-American relationship, as well as encourage the formulation of rational and constructive U.S. policies towards Latin America. In 1982, COHA's board of trustees voted to expand its mandate to include monitoring Canadian/Latin American relations. Since its inception, COHA has been one of the most active and broadest-based U.S. private bodies dealing with the entire spectrum of political, economic and diplomatic issues, as well as the economic and political challenges confronting the Inter-American nations.

From its founding, COHA's board consisted of the leadership of some of this country's most important trade unions, professional organizations and religious groups, well as distinguished civic and academic figures who joined together to advance their common belief in support of representative government and pluralistic institutions throughout the hemisphere.

COHA subscribes to no specific political credo nor does it maintain partisan allegiances. It supports open and democratic political processes just as it consistently has condemned authoritarian regimes of any stripes that fail to provide their populations with even minimal standards of political freedoms, economic and social justice, personal security and civic guarantees.

COHA is entirely staffed by a professional core, who contribute their services, supplemented by a large number of volunteer graduated and undergraduate students who often receive academic credit from their home institutions for the experience gained through their work here. Over the years, retired government employees also have cooperated with COHA in preparing monographs on such topics as regional development, trade policies, technology transfer, the operations of multinational corporations and the controversial development strategies of the international lending agencies. The staff is assisted by a number of extra-mural professionals coming from an academic background who serve as COHA senior research fellows, who are generally considered to be leaders in their respective fields of expertise.

COHA's analyses are frequently sought after by the major media, with its long-time director, Larry Birns, as well as other senior personnel regularly being called upon by the major national and international press, along with network radio and TV public affairs programs, to provide commentary on breaking regional issues. COHA contributors also appear regularly in the opinion columns on editorial pages throughout the country,

and its findings frequently have been heard and seen over the BBC, Voice of America, CBC, Radio Marti, Radio Havana and U.S. radio programs. COHA personnel also have appeared one or more times on CNN, C-Span, Firing Line, Crossfire, Nightline, the CBS, ABC and NBC evening news, as well as the network Larry King program, "Good Morning America" and the "Today Show," and many National Public Radio public affairs programs.

COHA's personnel have been interviewed, or the organization's findings have been referred to in such publications as Time, Newsweek, the Atlantic Monthly, U.S. News and World Report, New York Magazine, Harper's, the New Yorker, the New Statesman Barron's, and Maclean's. On almost a daily basis, the results of COHA's work appear in the press of Latin America and Europe. COHA also has been cited in numerous occasions in the New York Times, the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, the Christian Science Monitor, the London Observer, the Boston Globe, the Miami Herald, the Toronto Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, the London Independent and the Guardian, among many other newspapers.

COHA has been referred to in the floor of the Senate as "one of our Nation's most respected bodies of scholars and policy-makers."

#### GUATEMALA'S FOUR DECADES OF TERROR

(By Chanin Webb)

Genocide committed during Guatemala's 36-year civil war, although far exceeding the death tolls reached in Bosnia, as well as in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Argentina and Chile combined, has not received proper notice from the international community. Fortunately, the slow march of justice may finally be reaching Guatemala, as indigenous Mayan survivors of over a dozen massacres—out of an estimated 600 committed during that era—speak out, accusing former dictator Efraín Ríos Montt of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Supported by the Center for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH), a local NGO which serves as a co-prosecutor in the case and offers legal council to the victims, an association of surviving indigenous Maya is suing ex-General Ríos Montt on charges related to the massacres in which 1,200 lives were lost. At these bloodlettings, which occurred between March and December of 1982, peasants throughout the Mayan highlands were raped, tortured and murdered, with their bodies tossed into the large pits serving as mass graves. The locations of these ossuaries were known for years, but left undisturbed until recently, due to fear of retaliation. The indictment against Ríos Montt is based on the testimonies of the survivors, as well as the deceased, in the form of these recently uncovered burial sites.

#### RÍOS MONTT'S TERRORIST NETWORK

Shortly after the CIA's sponsored coup in 1954, which toppled the democratically-elected government of Jacobo Arbenz and placed the country under military rule, revolutionary groups began being formed to combat authoritarian rule. The result was a civil conflict which lasted for 36 years, leaving more than 200,000 dead and millions displaced. It was during this bloody conflict that Ríos Montt rose to power. By 1972, he had achieved the rank of brigadier general, and was, at the time, already being accused of using his new authority to orchestrate the 1973 massacre of over 100 indigenous Maya. In 1982, Ríos Montt led a military coup that seized control of the government, overthrowing Gen. Lucas García (who also has been accused of major war crimes).

Many hoped that, due to his evangelical background, Ríos Montt would reduce the cruelty; instead, he took the war to new levels of violence by attacking the thousands of indigenous Maya who allegedly comprised the bulk of the revolutionaries. Ríos Montt believed that other Maya were providing the guerrillas with food and shelter, thus making them collaborators and subversives. According to CIA records released in February of 1998, under the Ríos Montt dictatorship, there was a marked increase in military violence and destruction of Mayan villages.

Under the ensuing reign of terror, Ríos Montt utilized notorious Civil Defense patrols and "model" villages (officially known as social re-adaptation centers) which were akin to concentration camps, housing the survivors from various Mayan communities decimated by the armed forces. Males thirteen years and older were required to serve in Civil Defense patrols, which operated as paramilitary units and were supervised by the army. Their mission was to act as informants and they were expected to kill suspected guerrillas as need be, as well as fellow villagers. According to Andrea Leland, author of *A Long Road Home*, these civil patrols put the indigenous boys and men in the forefront of danger, compelling them at times to kill members of their community, consequently destroying the fabric of their Mayan heritage.

The most devastating of Ríos Montt's actions was the implementation of the "scorched earth" policy, which called for hundreds of villages to be burned to the ground and thousands of innocent people to be tortured and murdered. One documented incident of this policy in action took place in the village of El Quetzal on July 17, 1982. Soldiers divided the families, placing the men in the local schoolhouse and the women and children in the church. After several hours, the soldiers took a group of men from the schoolhouse and executed them with stones and machetes; those remaining were killed when the military threw grenades into the building. The younger women were raped, tortured, and killed, while the older women were murdered with their children, when the military threw grenades into the church. In all, over 360 people died in this tragic event.

In another massacre, which took place at the Mayan community of San Francisco, more than ten thousand villagers were displaced, aside from those brutally murdered. The random cruelty of the military is revealed by the fact that children were found with their stomachs cut open, while others had been grabbed by their legs and smashed against trees and upright beams within their houses. At the time, the Ríos Montt administration blamed the attacks on radical right-wing vigilante groups; however, then-U.S. ambassador to Guatemala, Fredric Chapin, noted in CIA records that "I am firmly convinced that the violence is government of Guatemala ordered and not "right-wing violence" and that these were not rightist militant squad executions, but again executions ordered by armed service officers close to President Ríos Montt." On August 1983, Ríos Montt was himself dethroned by a military junta lead by General Mejía Victores. During Ríos Montt's short rein as dictator, thousands of victims were added to the death toll fact sheet.

#### BRINGING DOWN A TYRANT

To this day, Ríos Montt continues to retain plenary power within Guatemala's government, as president of Congress and de facto president of the country, by controlling the corrupt nominal president, Alfonso Portillo. The latter was elected on the Frente Republicano Guatemalteco (FRG)

ticket, which is led by its founder, Ríos Montt. The FRG controls congress and has quickly become one of Guatemala's most corrupt regimes in recent history, according to CALDH's director, Frank La Rue. The case against Ríos Montt is consistent with the conclusions of the Commission for Historical Clarification (the UN-sponsored Truth Commission), which stated "Guatemalan authorities must prosecute those with the main responsibility for the serious human rights violations." Newly appointed prosecutor Mario Leal, assisted by CALDH and the association of Mayan victims, continues to push the genocide case against Ríos Montt forward. Since 1973, under Guatemalan criminal law, there is no immunity from prosecution for those who have committed crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, meaning that Ríos Montt cannot hide behind his current incumbency.

Since the initiation of the case against Ríos Montt, terror and incessant threats have followed those pursuing justice. This past July, Anselmo Roldán, representative of the communities that filed that legal case against Ríos Montt, was attacked and seriously wounded by Santiago Emilio Pérez, who escaped by hiding in the house of a FRG supporter. But with this increased level of danger, the case is moving forward, according to CALDH, which believes Mr. Leal's team will begin taking testimonies of the eyewitnesses to the massacres this month. They believe it is possible to have the investigation completed by July 2002.

Observers feel that this case could form the basis of hope for national reconciliation regarding atrocities committed against the Mayan community during the 36-year conflict. To only bring it to trial would be a most notable victory for those involved, as well as for the country's otherwise discredited judicial system, setting a precedent that hopefully will serve as a formidable deterrent for those contemplating the future use of terror against the public.

#### TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTER ANGEL JUARBE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Firefighter Angel Juarbe of FDNY Ladder 12, a national hero who gave his life to save many others during the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center.

Angel Juarbe, a valiant firefighter, was a Bronx native and resident for his short 35 years of life. Members of his community and family have felt a gaping hole in their lives since Angel's passing. They are not alone, and like the thousands of other family members and friends of those lost in the national tragedies, they have become survivors of September 11th. One of Angel's brothers, Ed, said of him, "He always wanted to help the less fortunate." Another of Angel's brothers, Charles, is a New York City Police officer who searched desperately for his brother after the second World Trade Center tower came down. Angel Juarbe was a beloved son, brother, and uncle.

Mr. Speaker, Angel had entered a hotel connected to the second tower, moments after the first had gone down. He and fellow fire-

fighters rescued a number of people trapped in the building and as they moved up floors, made the judgement call to disencumber themselves for easier maneuvering by leaving behind some of their emergency equipment, namely their large supply of rope. After an undiscernible amount of time, the firefighters were called to evacuate the structure. Before they could all escape the collapsing building, staircases crumbled and Angel and his comrades realized that they needed the rope to rappel down to safety. Angel and a fellow firefighter retrieved the rope and made their way back up to the stranded men. On the way, they came across another firefighter in peril and while they assisted this individual, the second World Trade Center tower collapsed bringing down the joined hotel.

Shortly before his tragic death on that infamous day, Angel had become a momentary television star thanks to his stint on Fox's reality show "Murder in Small Town X." Angel emerged the victor of this program which placed regular individuals in the roles of investigators in a fictitious town beleaguered by a serial murderer. Angel earned quite a few fans throughout the airing of the show and today a number of webpages are dedicated to his memory by these devoted fans who felt like they knew the charming New Yorker. Angel, who solved the mystery and caught the "killer," was awarded \$250,000 and a brand new Jeep Cherokee. He told a reporter after winning the show that he was giving part of his winnings to his father so that he could retire. He said that another part was going to help his nieces and nephews with their educations.

Mr. Speaker, the number of heroes emerging from the events on September 11th continues to grow. Our firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers who risked their lives daily before September 11th and have everyday since, are national treasures. I ask my colleagues to join me today in commemorating one of these treasured heroes; Angel Juarbe.

#### CLEAN DIAMOND TRADE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2722, the Clean Diamond Trade Act, and I thank Congressmen HOUGHTON, RANGEL and HALL for their dedication to finding a consensus on this issue. Thanks to their work, the diamond industry, human rights organizations and American consumers can rest assured that their government is dedicated to eliminating the funding of civil war, and of terrorist organizations from diamond profits.

H.R. 2722, prohibits the importation of rough diamonds, or polished diamonds, into the United States unless the exporting country has a system of controls, consistent with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/56 adopted on December 1, 2000, or that is consistent with an equivalent international agreement. This bill also prohibits the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Export-Import Bank of the United States from engaging in projects involving the mining, polishing or sale of diamonds in a country that fails to meet these same requirements.