

to Catholic homes," he said. "We were terribly shocked. This has always been such a peaceful city."

The recent attacks follow what church leaders call "a false lull," occurring after the international outrage last year over the burning alive of Graham Staines, an Australian missionary, and his two small sons last year.

"Physically, many of the incidents are now less obvious," said John Dayal, secretary general of the All India Christian Council. "But there is a 24-hour reign of terror, which occasionally bursts into violence."

Last year the Indian government reported 240 incidents—including about 22 murders—in the year leading up to 2000, and almost every week newspapers carry an account of a ransacked church, an assaulted or murdered priest or a vandalized cemetery.

Many of the assailants are member of the Bajrang Dal, a militant Hindu nationalist organization linked to the BJP, which has carried out many of the most violent attacks on Christians in India.

Church leaders maintain, however, that all the attacks—whether they are carried out by the Bajrang Dal or its fellow Hindu nationalist organizations—have the tacit approval of the BJP government.

"The Bajrang Dal are ruffians, but someone must have told them what to do the previous night," said Mr. Dayal.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CASEY SWANSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I pay today to senior Colorado State Parks ranger Casey Swanson, whose courageous act of capturing two dangerous fugitives went above and beyond the call of duty, and displayed a measure of heroism worthy of being brought before this body of Congress. During his tenure as a Colorado State Parks ranger, Casey has embodied the ideals of integrity, honesty and courage that we, as Americans, have come to expect from the men and women who serve in our state parks. I, along with the citizens of Colorado, am both grateful and proud of Casey's extraordinary act of valor, and believe it appropriate to pay tribute to him for his courage and bravery.

Though not typically in the job description, Casey's extraordinary efforts to apprehend two armed killers near Salida, Colorado on September 29, 2001 are a testament to his relentless dedication to his job, to his community and to his state. After checking on a colleague who was manning a roadblock, Casey became involved in the search for the two killers. Being familiar with the area, he led a search team into the Castle Gardens area and later stood watch in the dark above a creek that ran through the area. After waiting for some time, Casey spotted the fugitives and ultimately coaxed them out of their hiding place, enabling other officers to join him in peacefully detaining the killers. Because of his incredible bravery, these criminals are now in the hands of law enforcement officials, and of no threat to anyone else in the area. His courage in the

face of both fear and adversity is truly remarkable, and for his efforts, Casey was named the outstanding ranger of the year by the Colorado State Parks.

Mr. Ranger, I am honored today to rise and pay tribute to a man whose actions are the very essence of all that makes this country great, and I am deeply honored to be able to bring them to the attention to this body of Congress. It is in times of great need that true heroes emerge, and I am proud to say Casey Swanson is a hero not only to me, but to his family, his friends and to this country. It is with a great deal of pride that I stand to honor him today, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES ACT OF 2002

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act. I would like to thank the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Select Education, Mr. ROEMER, for working with me to put together a bill that I trust will have broad, bipartisan support in the Congress. The Museum and Library Services Act of 1996 authorizes the Federal library and museum program until the end of fiscal year 2002. The Subcommittee on Select Education of the Committee on Education and the Workforce has been working to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act before it expires.

I believe there will be broad support for this reauthorization because museums and libraries are a vital part of our society. Attendance at American museums is now at more than 865 million visits per year and today's 21st century library is not just a provider of books; instead, the typical American library coordinates a complete and comprehensive approach to community development and services. Under current law, the Museum and Library Services Act:

Provides modest but essential federal support, in partnership with State and local private and public sector sources, for museum and library contributions to public education services and stewardship of the Nation's cultural heritage collections;

Funds the one Federal agency (the Institute of Museum and Library Services) devoted exclusively to museums and libraries, which are natural partners with out nation's schools; and

Encourages model cooperation between museums and libraries as no other legislation does.

The Library Services and Technology subtitle is the only Federal program solely devoted to supporting libraries. This legislation assists libraries in providing crucial services to the communities they serve. Throughout our Nation, libraries are at the forefront of reading and family literacy programs. And importantly, libraries serve as essential links to the business community, assisting with job creation and training programs, and assisting with busi-

ness development initiatives as well. They are also critical to many people with disabilities, providing them with specialized materials and resources that are obtainable in a single location. For older Americans, libraries provide a place to interact with others, use the Internet, and receive services. For those persons of limited resources or who live in remote areas, libraries provide access to books and reference materials, computers and the Internet, and community-based social services that are often available no where else.

The Museum and Library Services Act also supports museums in their educational role and assists museums in modernizing their methods and facilities so that they are better able to conserve the cultural, historic, and scientific heritage of the United States. Museums play an important role in the education of people of all ages. Specifically, most American museums provide K-12 educational programming, with most using local and State curriculum standards to shape their programs. Additionally, museums increasingly partner with libraries to offer joint educational opportunities for adults as well as children.

Museums can be an important source of cultural and historical knowledge for people, as they learn about the history and traditions of our country and our shared identity as Americans. Museums increasingly serve as places where people of different backgrounds, economic levels and home locations come together and not only share the experience of viewing their community's artifacts and natural objects, but also discuss community issues.

The Museum and Library Services Act of 2002 makes several modifications to current law to streamline and strengthen museum and library services across the country:

Coordination—Ensures that library activities are coordinated with activities under P.L. 107-110, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;

Museum and Library Services Board—Eliminates references to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and consolidates its advisory responsibilities under the existing Museum Services Board that will expand to include library services. The purpose of this change is to consolidate museum and library board activities under a single statute;

National Awards for Museum and Library Service—Authorizes the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Director to award a National Award for Library Service as well as a National Award for Museum Service;

Analysis of Impact of Museum and Library Services—Ensures that administrative funds are also used to conduct annual analyses of the impact of museum and library services to identify needs and trends of services provided under museum and library programs; and

Minimum Allotment—Increases the minimum State allotment for library programs to \$500,000 (roughly a 46 percent increase over current law).

I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle cosponsor the Museum and Library Services Act of 2002. I look forward to moving this legislation through the Committee on Education and the Workforce and to the Floor so that we can ensure that our Nation's museums and libraries are getting the best assistance we are able to provide from the Federal level.

ARREST AIDS PURSUIT OF
WEAPONS NETWORK

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I commend your attention and that of our colleagues to a report in today's Washington Post, "Arrest Aids Pursuit of Weapons Network."

This article is part of reporter Douglas Farah's continuing exposé of the role conflict diamonds are playing in funding terror in Africa and terrorist attacks on America. Today's page-one story details significant progress in our intelligence agencies' effort to cut off the flow of sophisticated arms to Al Qaeda, the Taliban, Abu Sayyaf, and rebel groups in Africa. It notes that United Nations investigators working independently have documented the shipment of "hundreds of tons of arms to UNITA rebels in Angola, the government of President Charles Taylor in Liberia and several factions involved in the civil war in Congo." And, of particular interest to this House, it spells out the role that conflict diamonds play in an underground network that funds those weapons.

Mr. Speaker, at a hearing this month before a Senate Government Affairs Committee panel, Chairman DICK DURBIN and Senators MIKE DEWINE, RUSS FEINGOLD, JUDD GREGG, SUSAN COLLINS, and GEORGE VOINOVICH focused on the role conflict diamonds are playing in undermining the United States' efforts to freeze Al Qaeda's assets. As a witness from the State Department testified, "reports that terrorists may be buying and hoarding diamonds are cause for immense concern." I share this concern.

As you know, ending the trade in conflict diamonds has been a priority for me and Congressman FRANK WOLF, since we first met some of the victims of Sierra Leone's war over diamonds in 1999. Last year, we joined CHARLIE RANGEL and AMO HOUGHTON in pressing Congress to act against this blood trade and were proud to see the House approve our Clean Diamond Trade Act by an overwhelming margin.

Today, I commend the U.S. and Belgian authorities who are working to stop what probably is "the biggest weapons-trafficking network in the world." I salute Mr. Farah, who first broke this important story last year and has pursued it doggedly. And I urge everyone working on the problem of conflict diamonds to redouble their efforts. For the sake of the African victims of this blood trade, on behalf of Americans who deserve any protection from future terrorist attacks that our government can provide, and to ensure the legitimate industry is not penalized by the 10–15 percent of diamonds that are tainted by this scourge—this work must be finished.

ARREST AIDS PURSUIT OF WEAPONS NETWORK
(By Douglas Farah)

U.S. and European law enforcement officials say they have scored an important advance in their efforts to disrupt what some officials describe as the biggest weapons-trafficking network in the world, responsible for supplying the Taliban and terrorist groups from al Qaeda in Afghanistan to the Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines, as well as rebel forces in Africa.

For the past three years, U.S. intelligence agencies have covertly been trying to thwart the sprawling arms empire of Victor Bout's, a former Soviet military officer whose operation is based in the United Arab Emirates, according to U.S. and European officials. Bout's network is unique, U.S., British and U.N. investigators said, because of its ability to deliver sophisticated weapon systems virtually anywhere in the world.

A suspected top associate of Bout's is under arrest in Belgium, and investigators say he is providing fresh, inside information on how the arms network functions.

While Bout has long been suspected of supplying weapons to the Taliban, U.S. and European officials said intelligence gathered in recent months in Afghanistan and elsewhere has provided new details about his flights and deliveries in the months before the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. The intelligence suggests he was flying weapons into Afghanistan more recently than had been believed, according to U.S. and U.N. officials familiar with the material.

Bout specialized in breaking arms embargoes around the world, according to four separate U.N. Security Council reports on weapons trafficking that were issued between December 2000 and last month. His activities were also described in interviews with U.S., British and U.N. investigators. He traffics almost exclusively in weapons bought in the former Soviet bloc, chiefly Bulgaria and Romania, according to these officials.

"There are a lot of people who can deliver arms to Africa or Afghanistan, but you can count on one hand those who can deliver major weapons systems rapidly," said Lee S. Wolosky, a former National Security Council official who led an interagency effort to shut down Bout's operations during the last two years of the Clinton administration. "Victor Bout is at the top of that list."

U.S. and European officials said the suspected top associate of Bout, Sanjivan Ruprah, was arrested in Belgium earlier this month on charges of criminal association and using a false passport.

Before the arrest, Ruprah, a Kenyan, had secretly been in contact with U.S. officials in recent months, providing them with information about Bout, according to U.S. officials and Ruprah's attorney. The U.S. officials said they were given no warning Ruprah was about to be arrested by the Belgians.

U.S. officials also said they had made no deal with Ruprah. They said that since the arrest, Ruprah has divulged more information about Bout's suspected arms pipeline to the Taliban, which ruled Afghanistan until last November, and al Qaeda, which the Taliban had sheltered there.

"We are very, very interested in this case because we understand Ruprah is talking about the supply of weapons to al Qaeda and the Taliban," said a senior U.S. official. "His basic line with us was that, while he had done some bad things, he didn't deal with al Qaeda and he understood that being linked to that now would be very, very bad."

Ruprah was especially valuable to Bout, U.S. and U.N. investigators said, because he was tied to the illicit diamond trade in West Africa and arranged for Bout to be paid for his weapons deliveries with diamonds from Sierra Leone, Congo and Angola.

Al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations have used an underground network that stretches across Africa to trade in diamonds, weapons and other valuable commodities.

Last year both Bout and Ruprah were placed on a U.N. list of individuals banned from international travel because of their ties to Liberia and the Sierra Leone rebel movement known as the Revolutionary United Front, or RUF.

Johan Peleman, a Belgian weapons expert who has investigated Bout for several years on behalf of the United Nations and has spoken regularly to Ruprah in recent months, said Ruprah was knowledgeable about Bout's financial dealings, especially in the diamond trade. Belgium is interested because Bout's financial network was based in Antwerp, the center of the world diamond trade.

Ruprah's attorney, Luc de Temmerman, said in a written statement that his client engaged only in legal activities in Africa. While acknowledging that Bout and Ruprah knew each other, he said they were not in business together.

De Temmerman said Ruprah had recently been in touch with the FBI, the CIA, the United Nations and British intelligence officials to provide them with information in an effort to have the U.N. travel ban on him lifted. He denied Ruprah knew anything about arms shipments to al Qaeda or the Taliban.

The U.N. reports said Bout originally based his operations in Ostend, Belgium, in 1995, and moved to the UAE in 1997 when Belgian officials began investigating his air freight operations.

The reports, compiled independently by separate groups of U.N. investigators monitoring U.N. embargoes, document Bout's shipments of hundreds of tons of arms to UNITA rebels in Angola, the government of President Charles Taylor in Liberia and several factions involved in the civil war in Congo. All are under U.N. weapons bans.

Ruprah was identified in U.N. reports as a key intermediary between Bout and Taylor. A December 2000 report said Ruprah was issued a Liberian diplomatic passport in the name of Samir M. Nasr, and was identified as Liberia's deputy commissioner for maritime affairs.

Ruprah helped arrange for three flights to Liberia in July and one in August 2000, the report said, delivering two combat-capable helicopters, surface-to-air missiles, armored vehicles, machine guns and almost a million rounds of ammunition. The weapons originated in Bulgaria.

U.S. and U.N. investigators say they believe Bout has also run guns for the radical Muslim Abu Sayyaf guerrilla movement in the Philippines and has flown weapons for Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi.

"Victor Bout, as the largest player in the world in the illicit air logistics business, is a critical alder and abettor to criminal and terrorist organizations, rogue heads of state and insurgencies—whoever is able to pay," Wolosky said.

According to a U.N. Security Council report issued in April 2001, Bout is 35 years old. Bom in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, he is a graduate of Moscow's Military Institute of Foreign Languages and speaks six languages fluently, according to the report.

The report also describes Bout as a former air force officer who holds at least five passports. Investigators said Bout was known as the "Lone Wolf" because he operates by himself. They describe him as short, stocky and usually sporting a bushy mustache.

Telephone calls and faxes to Bout's offices in the UAE went unanswered. An associate of Bout's there said all of Bout's employees in the Emirates had left. The associate said he no longer knew where they were. Bout's brother Sergei, based in Islamabad, Pakistan, also did not return phone calls.

Bout has refused to talk to U.N. investigators or reporters.

He has a fleet of about 60 aircraft, including large Russian cargo planes, according to investigators. His operation is tied together by a complex web of overlapping airlines, charter companies and freight-forwarding operations that give him a global reach. His main company is registered as Air Cess.