

In 1948, Mother Teresa received approval from the Pope to create a religious order known as the Missionaries of Charity. She sought out nuns who were educated as nurses and asked them to train her. She returned to Calcutta where she opened a hospice. In her later years, Mother Teresa devoted her time and energy to establishing hospice programs for suffering from AIDS.

In 1979, Sister Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and in 1985, the Presidential Medal. She was also given the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Foundation for Hospice and Homecare. However, it was clear that what she most cherished was the satisfaction of delivering care and comfort to millions of needy people.

Guided by her 40 years of leadership, the Missionaries of Charity grew from one to more than 400 missions worldwide. Today, there are approximately 5,000 sisters in the order.

Mother Teresa was universally loved and will always be remembered. This was evidenced by the fact that both chambers of Congress passed commemorative resolutions within just days of her death in 1997. They also posthumously awarded her the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor bestowed on a civilian.

The world will again remember her legacy of compassion when Pope John Paul II celebrates a three hour Mass next month for her beatification.

Mr. Speaker, throughout her life, Mother Teresa knew no limits when caring for others as she gave unconditional love to all. On this day, let us once again remember her lasting contributions and goodwill for all mankind.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUATAMALA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, Guatemalan Constitutional Court justices made history by declaring null and void two previous court rulings banning infamous former dictator Efraín Ríos Montt from seeking presidential office. Efraín Ríos Montt, the retired brigadier general and current head of Guatemala's national legislature, has been universally condemned for waging a "scorched earth" campaign against indigenous Mayan civilians during his 1982–1983 presidency. Some of the worst abuses in Guatemala's brutal 36-year civil war occurred during Ríos Montt's rule. Wisely enough, the drafters of Article 186 of Guatemala's 1985 Constitution engrossed a ban to prevent leaders responsible for staging military coups from ever again seeking the Guatemalan presidency. Yet Ríos Montt, who came to power through just such a coup in March of 1982, recently obtained a favorable ruling from Guatemala's highest court despite this earlier provision. He managed this by using his influence to pack the court with additional members who were personally loyal to him. In addition, he sought to legitimate his candidacy by claiming that the 1985 Constitution cannot be applied retroactively to actions taken three years before it was enacted.

The State Department repeatedly has stated that Ríos Montt's continued involvement in Guatemalan politics is an obstacle to effective

U.S. relations with that country. In fact, events would seem to indicate that Ríos Montt's candidacy is an equal threat to domestic stability within Guatemala; a number of weeks ago, mass protest in support of the ex-dictator's candidacy, clearly manipulated by Ríos Montt and other leaders of his party, turned violent as mobs rushed into government buildings and seized them, including the Supreme Court. Since the Bush administration is so concerned with human rights in Iraq, what about Guatemala? Regional alliances such as the proposed U.S.-Central American Free Trade Agreement are bound to be jeopardized by Ríos Montt's self-serving insistence on seeking the presidency, even at the country's democratic prospects. We as a body must strive to understand the potential implications and the high costs of Ríos Montt's continued involvement in Guatemalan politics if we are to accelerate our steps towards the goal of promoting effective relations with the Central American region.

On September 15, the United States recertified Guatemala, reversing a decision made in January due to the country's consistently poor efforts to stem the northward flow of narcotics that end up in our streets. Circumstances, however, suggest that the recertification was motivated not so much by any improvement in Guatemala's drug interdiction efforts, but by the Bush administration's ceaseless search for the expansion of free trade, even if it costs the U.S. hundreds of thousands of solid jobs. The Bush administration, eager to enact its Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) proposal, seems to have been responding to certain pressures to renew Guatemala's certification whatever its justification; twenty-one of our esteemed colleagues took the principled step of writing to the White House and saying that they would not vote for CAFTA without such recertification, and Guatemala, home to Central America's largest population and most formidable economy, would not likely approve the trade agreement if it remained decertified. This leads one to wonder, then, what the certification process and the war on drugs are really about, as the controversial and inequitable specter of free trade has clearly taken precedent.

The following very timely memoranda on Guatemala's many problems were authored by Molly Maas and Jessica Leight, research associates at the highly respected Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), a non-partisan organization that has long been committed to addressing issues associated with human rights, democracy and economic justice throughout the Western Hemisphere. COHA has been referred to by Senator EDWARD KENNEDY in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as "one of our Nation's most respected bodies of scholars and policy-makers."

RIOS MONTT DECLARED ELIGIBLE TO RUN IN GUATEMALA'S UPCOMING ELECTION (Jessica Leight and Molly Maas)

On Tuesday, July 14, one of the most brutal dictators in modern Guatemalan history, General Efraín Ríos Montt, was declared a legitimate candidate for the November presidential elections by the country's highest court. Since Guatemala gained its independence from Spain in 1821, this largely poor Central American nation has suffered under a series of foreign rulers and pathological homegrown despots. Yet, arguably, none of its leaders have been more infamous than

Ríos Montt, who seized power in a 1982 coup and presided over an unremittingly harsh dictatorship for eighteen months until a counter-coup installed General Oscar Humberto Mejía Victores as the country's military leader. Today, Guatemala's official Commission for Historical Clarification labels atrocities committed under Montt's regime as "genocide," and impartial observers argue that the ex-dictator was responsible for some of the worst human rights abuses in the country's 36-year civil war, including tortures, massacres, the destruction of hundreds of indigenous communities, and illegal detentions and murders of human rights advocates and indigenous leaders.

RIOS MONTT'S QUEST FOR THE PRESIDENCY

Since his fall from power in 1983, Ríos Montt has twice attempted to run for the Guatemalan presidency, in 1990 and in 1995. Each time, he has been blocked by the country's courts on the grounds that Article 186 of the 1985 Constitution forbids the candidacy of all former coup leaders, a provision that was expressly designed to deter a presidential bid from Ríos Montt. Despite these previous dismissals, however, the ruling FRG party, which controls the legislature as well as the presidency, once again nominated Ríos Montt as its presidential candidate this past May, and the Constitutional Court—the nation's highest judicial authority—approved his candidacy on July 14. The decision in this case was blatantly biased, as the current court was especially expanded, i.e., "packed" with Ríos Montt supporters. The president of the Constitutional Court, Mario Guillermo Ruiz Wong, is the former interior minister of the current FRG administration of President Alfonso Portillo, while another justice served as Ríos Montt's personal lawyer. Three of the four judges who voted in favor of the ex-dictator have links to Portillo's administration.

Following this ruling, a lower court, the Supreme Court of Justice, issued a contradictory injunction that temporarily suspended Ríos Montt's candidacy. In response, protests rocked the capital on Thursday, July 24, with thousands of former beneficiaries of Montt's dictatorship joining more recent recruits to his rightwing cause in the streets of Guatemala City. Though FRG leaders and Ríos Montt himself vehemently denied any role in organizing or even encouraging the demonstrations, the protest was marked by a suspicious lack of spontaneity. Pro-FRG peasants were trucked in from across the country by organizers wearing such masks to conceal their identity, and the entire operation had the mark of a well-planned and well-orchestrated demonstration of political intimidation.

Most damning for the FRG and the Portillo administration was the lack of effort on the part of the police to control violence by the protesters, as well as the army's refusal to intervene even after President Portillo announced on radio and television on Thursday afternoon that he had ordered the armed forces out "to guarantee respect of private property and the physical security of persons, as well as the defense of human rights." Though the demonstrators dispersed after receiving instructions to do so from Ríos Montt on Friday morning, the capital continues to wait in fear for a return of the usually armed *encapuchados*. Perhaps even more alarmingly, the government's commitment to the preservation of basic public order, as well as its control over the armed forces—largely unreformed following decades of unrestricted and brutal war against the guerrillas—remain in grave doubt. Having only so recently emerged from forty years of two devastating civil war which cost upwards of 200,000 lives, Guatemala seems on

the point of lurching back into its old habits of blood and gore, in a new era of mob rule.

U.S. CHILLY ON SUBJECT OF RIOS MONTT

The U.S., along with the United Nations, has been notably critical of the human rights abuses that continue to plague Guatemala's fragile democracy. The State Department condemned the riots and the lack of effort by the authorities to control the violence. Earlier, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher had indicated his disapproval of Rios Montt's candidacy, asserting that should Rios Montt be elected, "realistically, in light of Mr. Rios Montt's background, it would be difficult to have the kind of relationship that we would prefer." This followed statements earlier in the year by U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala John Hamilton that noted a troubling lack of compliance on the part of the government with the 1996 UN-brokered peace accord. In an admirable display of candor about the deteriorating situation in Guatemala, Hamilton stated that, "My government shares the Guatemalan people's concern that today, more than six years after the end of the armed conflict, there are still serious violations of human rights."

It is crucially important that the U.S. maintain this strong stance in opposition to the candidacy of such a brutal ex-dictator and avoid the temptation to paper over the crimes of Rios Montt in order to ensure Guatemala's inclusion in the upcoming Central American Free Trade Agreement negotiations, scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. Last January, the Bush administration announced its decision to decertify Guatemala for insufficient progress in the war on drugs. Subsequently, it made use of a "vital national interest waiver" to continue to provide economic aid to the country in spite of the decertification. While continuance of such assistance provides some valuable leverage for the U.S. to exercise, as it seeks to pressure the Guatemalan government to bring human rights violators to justice, rein in corruption and ensure an orderly democratic transition after the November elections, this is the case only if the White House indicates that it is prepared to advance the country's democratization. If the White House wishes to demonstrate that its concern for human rights extends beyond Iraq, then there can be no more appropriate task than to facilitate the unhindered operation of justice in Guatemala, a country that has seen precious little of it up to now.

TRIBUTE TO SAMMY HUDSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a man who has spent his life providing a valuable service to others. Sammy Hudson of Grand Junction, Colorado has shined the shoes of thousands of community members and visitors, providing everyone with great service and pleasant conversation. For his years of service to the community, along with his hard work and dedication, I am honored to recognize Sammy here today.

Sammy began shinning shoes as a nine-year-old boy in Chicago, learning the craft

from his grandfather. He has spent the last 23 years working in Grand Junction, and today, as the only traditional shoe-shiner in Grand Junction, Sammy provides a valuable service to his customers. His six decades of experience, along with a rigorous attention to detail and engaging personality, enable Sammy to brighten up the lives of numerous customers while simultaneously making a living doing something he enjoys.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Sammy Hudson for his service to the Grand Junction community. Sammy serves as an example of the kind of resourcefulness, hard work, and dedication that have helped to make this country great. Recognition for the outstanding service he provides is long overdue, and I am privileged to bring Sammy's story to the attention of this body of Congress today.

RECOGNIZING THE 2003 IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize one of the most significant civil rights movements I have had the privilege of supporting. On September 20, 2003, buses in nine major U.S. cities will take hundreds of immigrant workers and their allies on a cross country expedition to Washington, D.C. and New York City. The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride of 2003 will mark an important moment in the history of our great nation.

Inspired by the freedom rides of the 1960s, the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride (IWFR) will promote the civil rights of our immigrant population and help educate the public and elected officials about new requirements in immigration policy. IWFR hopes to help immigrant workers, living and paying taxes in the United States, to: (1) legalize their status; (2) have a clear road to citizenship; (3) reunify their families; (4) have a voice on the job regardless of legal status; and (5) enjoy full protection of the civil rights and civil liberties for all.

I also want to recognize the exceptional leadership of Maria Elena Durazo, David Glaser, and the sponsoring committees and individuals of the IWFR. Without their hard work the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride would not be possible. These two individuals and their sponsors exemplify the true meaning of leadership and stewardship.

The IWFR will not only help draw a new map for U.S. immigrants seeking citizenship, but it will also celebrate the American dream, the dream of becoming a citizen of the United States of America.

I am privileged to recognize the 2003 Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride as an excellent example of the freedom our great country provides.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DENNIS HALES, TREASURER OF FULTON COUNTY, OH, ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to stand before my colleagues in the House to pay tribute to a distinguished public servant from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Fulton County Treasurer Dennis Hales earlier announced his retirement, effective today, after ten years of distinguished local government service.

Dennis Hales moved to Fulton County in 1969. Prior to his service in the Fulton County Courthouse, he served in the Evergreen School District, as Evergreen High School Principal for six years, then for four years as Evergreen School District Superintendent. He continued his leadership role in Fulton County's schools, serving three years as Principal of Wauseon High School and for several more years as the assistant superintendent at Four County Career Center.

He assumed the office of Fulton County Treasurer in 1993. As Treasurer, Mr. Hale oversaw property and personal property tax collections and manufactured housing tax collections. He managed the investment of excess county funds, earning an average of \$1 million annually for Fulton County.

In addition to his distinguished service as a county officeholder, Dennis Hales also contributed his leadership philanthropically to the community. As Chairman of the United Way, Dennis Hales played a major role in merging several communities' efforts into one county-wide organization, increasing donations and consequently, enhancing services provided to County residents. He was selected Honorary Chairman of the 2002-2003 Fulton County United Way Campaign.

Dennis Hales has also been recognized as the Wauseon Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year.

Despite his many accolades, Dennis Hales has never sought personal recognition. Rather, he derives his energy from his dedication to Fulton County and his desire to work with his neighbors to build a stronger community.

As he enters this new period in his life, Dennis Hales remains a dedicated family man. He and his loving wife Janice are planning to travel and spend time with his children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the quality of our communities has long been based on the character and selfless service of our citizens. Fulton County, Ohio is a far richer community because of the work and dedication of Dennis Hales. I ask each of my colleagues to join me in this special tribute. We wish the entire Hales family good health and good fortune in the coming years.