

There is a phenomenal amount of work that still needs to be done before Iraq and the world can celebrate sovereignty.

Mr. Speaker, I know the people of Minnesota honor the service of tens of thousands of brave Americans serving in Iraq with their thoughts and prayers every day, as do I. We also share in the mourning with the families of service men and women who have died in Iraq. We support the men and women who have come home wounded and need support and time to heal. We witness the tragic deaths of Iraqi women, men and children and feel anguish at the unending violence.

Mr. Speaker, this is no time for the American people or the people of the world to celebrate as House Resolution 691 urges. On July 1, 2004, the first step toward Iraqi autonomy will be taken and the long and difficult path to peace, security and hope begins. It is at the end of this path—when Iraqi sovereignty does not require 140,000 U.S. troops to support it and when peace is real and the Iraqi people are celebrating their own freedom from occupation and violence—that the Congress, the American people and the world should join them in the celebration.

We should be planning for success in Iraq, not planning for a celebration.

THE 2004 INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will observe the seventh International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The date June 26 is no accident: it was on June 26, 1987 that the International Convention Against Torture came into effect, and on June 26, 1945 the United Nations Charter was signed. Tragically, torture and other severe human rights abuses continue in many countries around the globe to this day.

Even more tragically, the world has seen in the past few months that the United States is not as firmly placed as it should be among those nations that abhor and fully reject torture. The prison abuses at Abu Ghraib have disappointed all Americans. Although President Bush has asserted that "the values of this country are such that torture is not a part of our soul and our being" much of the world remains skeptical about the Bush administration's commitment to repudiation of torture in light of the recent revelations about internal administration legal memoranda which attempted to carve out broad exemptions from domestic and international prohibitions on torture based on the Presidential power as Commander-in-Chief.

While the Abu Ghraib revelations were appalling, there is another practice going on right now which merits equal attention, and that is the outsourcing of torture by this administration. Under a practice known as "extraordinary rendition," the CIA delivers terrorism suspects in U.S. custody both domestically and abroad to foreign governments known to use torture for the purpose of interrogation. This extra judicial practice has received little attention because of the great secrecy with which it oc-

curs. Attention was drawn to the practice in September 2002 when Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen, was seized while in transit to Canada through JFK airport, and sent to Jordan and later Syria at the request of the CIA. While in Syria, Arar was tortured and held in a dark, 3-by-6-foot cell for nearly a year. He was ultimately released and detailed his story to the media upon his return to Canada.

In October 2002, outgoing CIA director George Tenet testified to the 9/11 Commission that over 70 people had been subject to extraordinary rendition before September 11, 2001. The numbers since then are classified. Human rights organizations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Center for Constitutional Rights and the ACLU have detailed numerous cases of extraordinary rendition and are pursuing litigation in some of them. On June 21, the Canadian government launched an investigation into Arar's case.

This practice is inconsistent with U.S. and international law and is a moral outrage. It must be stopped. If the Bush administration continues to permit this sort of outsourced, third-party torture, it is more likely that our own troops in Iraq could be subject to the same type of brutal treatment. I have recently introduced legislation, H.R. 4674, that directs the State Department to compile a list of countries that commonly practice torture or cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment during detention and interrogation, and prohibits rendition to any nation on this list, unless the Secretary of State certifies that the nation has made significant progress in human rights. The bill explicitly permits legal, treaty-based extradition, in which suspects have the right to appeal in a U.S. court to block the proposed transfer based on the likelihood that they would be subjected to torture or other inhumane treatment.

Extraordinary rendition to countries known to practice torture amounts to outsourcing torture. It is morally repugnant to allow such a practice to continue. H.R. 4674 is designed to ensure that we not only ban torture conducted by our own forces but we also stop the practice of contracting out torture to other nations. Torture enabled by extraordinary rendition is outrageous and could expose our own forces to the same type of treatment.

It is also deeply foolish of the Bush administration to allow any questions to be raised as to America's rejection of torture. Quite simply, actions such as those at Abu Ghraib and the ongoing practice of extraordinary rendition endanger American soldiers and civilians who may be captured in Iraq, Afghanistan or elsewhere. By failing to firmly bar methods of torture with U.S. detainees, the Bush administration has increased the likelihood that Americans overseas will be tortured or subjected to inhumane treatment.

BALKAN ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the establishment of a new and innovative non-profit foundation whose sole ob-

jective is to rationalize and accelerate the transition of the Balkan countries to full market economies. The purpose behind the Balkan Organization for National Financial Development (BONAFIDE) is the promotion of U.S. investment in the region by facilitating the harmonization of the ethics, laws and regulations governing business, investment and the financial markets in these countries with those of the United States.

History is clear, Mr. Speaker. The greatest speed, quality and durability of the transition to democracy in this culturally and politically complex region will not be achieved solely through diplomatic pressure and direct foreign assistance. Instead, this transition is best achieved through positive pressures developed within these economies through the positive participation of our companies and institutions in legitimately participating in their growth.

In the past, there was an accepted and established manner of conducting business and working with government in these countries that was, by most measures, corrupt. The reality is that the lack of laws promoted this weakness. Today, with anti-corruption laws in place, the lack of enforcement institutions and transparency are in some cases promoting the perpetuation of these practices. The situation is improving, but it is by no means where it needs to be. As I see it, we can sit on the sidelines and lament the corruption of the past and the present, or we can support constructive programs and look to the future.

We can sit back and allow the other nations and their companies to participate in the tremendous economic potential in the region while imposing their own models of business ethics on these developing economies, or we can aggressively promote competitive U.S. investment and develop business ethics like ours. We need to help concentrated wealth achieved in a time when there was an absence of law transitioned into a framework of legitimate business. This is the purpose of the BONAFIDE organization.

BONAFIDE is funded exclusively by business and industry in the Balkans, including companies and individuals from the banking, railroad, mining, petroleum, telecommunications, and agriculture industries, as well as individuals who see the clear benefits of a closer alignment with the United States and its economic principles and practices, such as leading financial institutions and corporations from the Republic of Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Republica Srpska and Bulgaria, as well as individuals who have come, not unscathed, through this period of vague law, such as Sorin Vintu of Romania. These companies and individuals are concerned that the concentration of investment from countries other than the U.S. will have the effect of stagnating reforms and, therefore, growth. They are now committed to the early adoption and implementation of regulatory and enforcement reforms and transparency in their countries on the U.S. model, not the German or Russian model.

BONAFIDE, through its headquarters in Washington, will promote the accelerated harmonization of national laws, regulations and best business practices for the Balkans with those of the United States through an aggressive education exchange and cooperation program. BONAFIDE will facilitate collaborative

working visits of U.S. legislators and regulators with their counterparts in the region; between leaders of industry, financial services and law and their counterparts in the Balkans; and of academic leaders with government, business and educational institutions in these countries.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the establishment of this new organization and organizations like it and I strongly support the objectives they promote.

RECOGNIZING SCORE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a valuable, non-profit association helping America's small businesses and entrepreneurs. The organization I speak of is SCORE, Counselors to America's Small Businesses.

Small businesses are vital to our communities and our economy. They add jobs, add dollars to local economies, and provide a valuable sense of community. However starting

and operating a small business is a serious risk, and it is not easy.

Many hard-working, skilled, brilliant Americans have all the ambition and specialized knowledge to take that risk—but they lack the business knowledge and experience necessary to be successful. That is why I'd like to thank everyone at SCORE for giving these ambitious, eager, hard-working Americans the last tool they need to make their endeavor a success.

I'd like to thank SCORE and all of their members and employees for their philanthropy, advocacy, and dedication to American small businesses. I'm pleased to honor them on the floor of this House.