

Cuban Committee for Human Rights. He is an independent journalist who has contributed to CubaPress, Cuba Free Press and Nueva Prensa, all publications who seek to expose the nightmarish reality imposed by the totalitarian regime.

Because Mr. Argüelles Morán fought to expose the truth about the ruthless dictator's politics of fear and repression, he has been constantly harassed by Castro's thugs since 1997. According to Amnesty International, the harassment Mr. Argüelles Morán has endured includes threats, warnings, and detentions in the totalitarian gulag. On January 15, 1999 he was summoned to appear before a chief of the so-called Revolutionary National Police where Mr. Argüelles Morán was found to be a "danger" because he didn't work for a state enterprise. On January 27, 1999 he was locked up for two days to prevent him from covering the birthday celebrations of Jose Martí on January 28.

On March 20, 2003, as part of the totalitarian regime's ruthless crackdown on pro-democracy activists, Mr. Argüelles Morán was arrested and, after a sham trial, sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag. According to CubaNet, Mr. Argüelles Morán has been confined in a security cell with inmates held for common crimes who are mistreating him. He also reportedly has kidney problems. Let there be no doubt, Mr. Argüelles Morán has been "sentenced" to 20 years in Castro's violent, inhumane totalitarian gulag because he believes in, and wrote about, freedom, democracy, and human rights for the people of Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Argüelles Morán is languishing in the deplorable, inhuman conditions of Castro's totalitarian gulag, simply because he wrote the truth about the tyrant's repressive regime. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Pedro Argüelles Morán and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

REGARDING THE PROPOSED PLAN TO REUNIFY CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I rise to express my deep concerns with the final Annan plan to reunify Cyprus which will be voted on by both the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots on Saturday.

I am very fortunate and privileged to represent Astoria, Queens—one of the largest and most vibrant communities of Greek and Cypriot Americans in this country. It is truly one of my greatest pleasures as a Member of Congress to participate in the life of this community, and the wonderful Cypriot friends that I have come to know are one of its greatest rewards.

Along with these friends, I have been monitoring the negotiations to reunify Cyprus very closely during the past few months. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, and to this day continues to maintain an estimated 35,000 heavily armed troops. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots, who fell victim to a policy of ethnic cleansing, were forcibly evicted from their homes and became refugees in their own country.

Despite the hardships and trauma caused by the ongoing Turkish occupation, Cyprus has registered remarkable economic growth, and the people living in the Government-controlled areas enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living. Sadly, the people living in the occupied area continue to be mired in poverty.

Last month, 46 members of the Hellenic Caucus joined in a letter to Secretary of State Colin Powell and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to express their hope that any agreement to reunify Cyprus would explicitly recognize, among other provisions, property rights, the demilitarization of Cyprus, the establishment of the legal obligations of the guarantor powers (Turkey, Greece and the United Kingdom), and the presence of United Nations troops throughout a transitional period.

I also led a delegation of members of the Hellenic Caucus to meet with Secretary General Kofi Annan to discuss the negotiations regarding the reunification of Cyprus before it enters the European Union on May 1st. We expressed our support for the Secretary General's leadership in bringing the parties to the bargaining table, but expressed concerns regarding some of the issues that remained open: property rights, governance, free movement between Greek and Turkish areas of the island, and the pace of demilitarization of the island.

We stressed the importance of having a central government that has the ability to make decisions, and we expressed concern about limitations on the ability of Cypriots to travel unimpeded to all areas of the island.

Unfortunately, the negotiators were unable to reach a consensus, and Secretary General Annan was forced to step in to fill in the remaining gaps in the settlement. This final plan will now be voted on in two separate referenda by both the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots on Saturday, April 24.

The Greek Cypriots, who have worked continuously to end the forcible division of the island through a viable and lasting settlement, have several valid and important concerns with this final plan, which may lead them to reject it.

First, the Annan plan allows the indefinite presence of Turkish troops in Cyprus with a gradual decrease to 650 troops over a period of 14 years. The presence of these troops will prevent the full and genuine independence of Cyprus.

Next, while the plan allows the guarantor powers (Turkey, Greece, UK) to intervene unilaterally to preserve the "constitutional order" of the United Cyprus Republic and its constituent states, it neglects to clarify that the Treaty of Guarantee does not empower military intervention. This omission is troubling especially because Turkey believes that it still has the right to intervene militarily in Cyprus.

Previous UN Security Council resolutions called for the withdrawal of all settlers from Cyprus that were brought from Turkey after 1974, since the colonization of occupied territories is a crime under international law. The final plan provides that 45,000 of the settlers will automatically become citizens of the United Cyprus Republic. It also allows a large number of additional settlers to remain in Cyprus as permanent residents and after four years to apply for Cypriot citizenship. As a result, the vast majority of approximately 115,000 Turkish settlers, who are now illegally in Cyprus, could stay in Cyprus.

Under the Annan plan, for the first 19 years or until Turkey's accession to the EU, the number of Greek Cypriots who wish to permanently live in the Turkish Cypriot Constituent State (TCCS) will not be able to exceed 18 percent of its total population. After that time, their number will be permanently restricted to not more than 33.3 percent of the total population. Because the Greek Cypriots who will be permanently living in the TCCS will have its internal citizenship status, they will not have the right to participate in the elections for its 24 representatives in the federal Senate. Therefore, the plan establishes a system based on permanent ethnic division, while denying fundamental democratic rights to a segment of the population.

Finally, according to the Annan plan, the one third of the compensation to legal owners (Greek Cypriot refugees), who will be losing their properties, shall be guaranteed by the Federal State. Because the Federal State's sources will derive from Greek Cypriots by nine tenths and only by one tenth from Turkish Cypriots, the Greek Cypriots will be compensating their own loss of property. Therefore, instead of Turkey, they will be paying for the results of the Turkish invasion of 1974.

It is clear that divisions among people create harmful, destructive environments. I am disappointed that more progress was not made on these issues prior to the completion of the final plan. No matter what the Greek Cypriots decide on April 24, I will continue to support them in every way possible.

COMMENDING LOPEZ LOBOS, TEXAS CLASS 4A STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Brownsville, Texas, Lopez High School Lobos for their victory last weekend at the Class 4A State soccer championship, winning the game 2-1 and finishing their season at 25-4-1.

No team is greater than the student body and parents who support them, and that was Lopez' not-so-secret weapon. Over two-thirds of the crowd was there to support the Lobos, and their chants of "Si se puede" (we can do it) inspired this victory.

Lopez High School brought home to Brownsville the first championship title in UIL soccer. To find Brownsville teams that won State titles, you have to go back to 1985 and 1967 (both were cross country championships).

Lopez won seven playoff games for the right to compete for the State championship. Awful weather even played a part in the tournament. The title match was originally scheduled for the week before, but heavy rain and lightning postponed the championship game to another site and another time.

As any athlete can tell you, the rhythm of your game is a large part of the overall effort, and being mentally prepared for a game on a certain date—then having to postpone the game—can play havoc on your rhythm. But not for these young athletes; for them it did not matter that their shot at the title was postponed for a week. They redoubled their efforts

and practice . . . and played with purpose, endurance and confidence.

Lopez High School Principal Maggie Gutierrez summed up the lessons for the team to learn in this sweet victory. "This team has a spirit of never giving up no matter what," she said. "Lopez Lobos are born to succeed, and no one else will tell them any different." These athletes learned an important lesson in this championship: They are absolutely capable of doing great things; my prayer is that their imaginations will be their only limits in this world.

I offer my proud congratulations to each member of the team, to the coaches and their assistants, to the parents who must endure the practices and the injuries, and to the principal and teachers who set the example of combining education and athletics. Mostly, I want these young people to understand that they won far more than the respect that comes with a championship . . . they now know that dreams can come true.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our best wishes to the Lopez High School Lobos for their hard-fought and well-deserved victory at the Texas Class 4A State soccer championship.

RECOGNITION OF LAWRENCE
ROBERTS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to salute a student at Mississippi State University who has demonstrated athletic excellence this year and distinguished himself in the ranks of college basketball not only in my state, but across the country.

Mississippi State's SEC Player of the Year, Lawrence Roberts, is the first Bulldog player since Rickey Brown (1979–80) to average a double-double for an entire season. Roberts completed the 2003–04 campaign as the SEC's No. 7 scorer (16.9 points per game) and second-leading rebounder (10.1 rebounds per game). Roberts also finished the year ranked fifth in the league in field-goal percentage (51.9%). With an SEC-leading 16 double-doubles on the season, the 6-foot-9, 235-pound Roberts ranks fourth nationally among active NCAA Division I players with 38 career double-doubles. The former University of Baylor transfer and Houston, Texas native has averaged 16.3 points (1,400 career points) and 9.5 rebounds (821 career rebounds) per contest during his three-year, 86-game collegiate career.

This season, Roberts helped lead Associated Press SEC Coach of the Year Rick Stansbury's eighth-ranked Bulldogs to a 26–4 overall record and league-best 14–2 SEC mark en route to claiming the school's first outright SEC regular-season championship since 1962–63. This year's State squad also made school history by appearing in a fourth consecutive postseason tournament and earning a third straight NCAA Tournament berth.

Roberts' teamwork benefited the entire Bulldogs squad. But his skill on the court distinguished him individually, and he has been recognized for his achievements. The accolades continue to roll in.

In addition to being named the SEC Player of the Year, Roberts is the first Associated Press All-American First Team selection from a Mississippi Division I school since fellow Bulldog Bailey Howell in 1958–59. In addition to earning a slot on the gold standard of postseason teams, Roberts has also garnered first-team all-America recognition this season by both the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) and United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA).

He adds first-team national honors by the Sports Illustrated.com and College Insider.com Web sites as well as by the Adolph F. Rupp Award committee. Roberts has also collected second-team all-America accolades by the Basketball Times publication and ESPN.com.

Roberts has been named a top five finalist for the 28th Annual John R. Wooden Award along with Stanford's Josh Childress, Chris Duhon of Duke, Jameer Nelson of Saint Joseph's, and Connecticut's Emeka Okafor. Roberts becomes Mississippi State's first-ever Wooden Award All-American, which dates back to the 1976–77 hoops campaign.

Bulldog fans will wait till mid-June to see whether Roberts will return for his senior year or enter the NBA draft. This young man has time to make that decision and consider his opportunities, but fans in Mississippi will be watching him either way, either on the collegiate court or in the professional arena.

THE PASSING OF LARISA
BOGORAZ

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on April 6 of this year, one of the true giants of the Soviet and Russian human rights movements, Larisa Bogoraz, passed away.

Born in eastern Ukraine, Larisa Iosifovna Bogoraz was by profession a linguist. In 1950, she married the writer Yuli Daniel who, together with Andrei Sinyavsky, was subsequently arrested by Soviet authorities in 1965 for publishing their stories abroad. This trial, marking the first prosecution of Soviet writers for their literary activities since the time of Stalin, gained international attention and laid the groundwork for the Soviet human rights movement.

Daniel and Sinyavsky were convicted by a kangaroo court and sentenced to long terms in a Soviet labor camp in the Mordovia region. Traveling to visit her incarcerated husband, Larisa Bogoraz met relatives of other political prisoners. Soon she was deeply involved in drafting and distributing petitions calling upon the Soviet Government to observe the basic civil liberties enumerated in the 1936 Soviet constitution.

In early 1968, Larisa Bogoraz joined Pavel Litvinov to produce a petition addressed to the international community and protesting the trial of dissident Alexandr Ginzburg, who had compiled the well-known "White Book" on the trial of Daniel and Sinyavsky. In August of that year, when, as Ludmilla Alexeyeva wrote so eloquently, "the Politburo decided to 'strengthen peace' by invading a sovereign country," Larisa and six other brave souls met on Red Square and unfurled banners in defense of

Czechoslovakia and condemnation of the crushing of "Prague Spring." For their noble efforts, they were arrested by the KGB, tried, and convicted of "slander" against the Soviet Union. Bogoraz was sentenced to 4 years of internal exile in the Irkutsk region of eastern Siberia, where she worked in a wood-processing factory. In a show of solidarity and respect for her, Larisa's dissident friends combined their resources and bought her a house to live in while she served her exile term. When she completed her sentence, she sold the house and gave the proceeds to a fund for political prisoners.

By 1976, she was back in Moscow actively involved in the compilation of the "samizdat" publication "Memory" dedicated to chronicling the repressions of the Stalin era.

Meanwhile, personal tragedy struck. Lansa's second husband, Moscow Helsinki Group member and political prisoner Anatoly Marchenko, died of a hunger strike in Chistopol Prison in December 1986. The Helsinki Commission, which I am proud to chair, had raised the Marchenko case on several occasions, and the late Warren Christopher, our head of delegation at the CSCE meeting in Vienna, led a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Marchenko. The Soviet and East German delegations walked out in protest, but a few weeks later Dr. Andrei Sakharov was released from his Gorky exile, and in February 1987 General Secretary Gorbachev initiated the wholesale release of Soviet political prisoners.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Larisa Bogoraz continued her involvement in human rights activity, working with her colleagues from days past as well as a new generation of activists from Russia and the newly independent countries of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, in its eulogy to this dissident heroine, the Ryazan Memorial Society writes, ". . . texts that were signed 'L. Bogoraz still remain,' and our children will learn from them."

So might we all.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN S. BURD,
PRESIDENT, BRENAU UNIVERSITY

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House to honor a pioneer and friend within the higher education arena of Georgia. It is with immense pride and a great honor that I pay tribute to a man that has made similar contributions to our region, but in the higher education arena. Please join me recognizing a friend and a community servant, Dr. John S. Burd, as he retires as president of Brenau University in Gainesville, GA.

Since donning the mantle of president of what was then known as Brenau College in 1985, it could be argued that Dr. Burd has accomplished more in under twenty years than all previous presidents did in the first 107 years of this fine institution's history. Since he first assumed office, his vision of private liberal arts higher education, his dedication, hard work, personal sacrifice, and love of the arts have transformed the college into a nationally recognized university and enhanced the lives