

assistance for Montagnard asylum seekers should be provided also be provided by the Cambodian government and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Congress will continue to keep up the pressure on the regime in Hanoi. We will work to pass H. Con. Res. 378, a resolution calling for the release of Father Nguyen Van Ly, a prominent and outspoken Catholic priest, that was reported out of the House International Relations Committee and has nearly 90 cosponsors.

And we will also work to pass H.R. 1587, "The Vietnam Human Rights Act," which calls for careful monitoring of human rights in Vietnam. Similar legislation cleared the House 410-1 in the 107th Congress but stalled in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following articles by Human Rights Watch detailing the events of the Easter crackdown, to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The United States and the world cannot turn a blind eye to this Easter crackdown and continual persecution of Montagnards and religious groups in Vietnam. We must take a stand.

[Article from Human Rights Watch]

VIETNAM: OPEN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS TO INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS REPORTED KILLINGS OF MONTAGNARD PROTESTERS MUST BE INVESTIGATED IMMEDIATELY

(NEW YORK, April 22, 2004)—Vietnamese security forces appear to have coordinated with armed men in civilian clothing to savagely attack Montagnard protesters at more than a dozen mass demonstrations during Easter weekend, Human Rights Watch said today.

"The international community must act now and insist that Vietnam allow independent observers into the highlands to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation," said Dinah PoKempner, General Counsel for Human Rights Watch. "We've received alarming reports that scores of protesters were wounded during the demonstrations, and that some protesters were beaten to death."

Large-scale unrest involving between 10,000 and 30,000 indigenous minority Montagnards occurred in the Central Highland provinces of Dak Lak, Gia Lai, and Dak Nong on April 10 and 11, according to Vietnam's state media and independent accounts. Montagnard activists in Vietnam and abroad say that their movement seeks to peacefully press for religious freedom and return of ancestral lands in the Central Highlands. The Vietnamese government has charged that "anti-government" and "counter-revolutionary" elements are inciting the Montagnards to seek a separatist state.

Human Rights Watch has received firsthand reports that security forces and men in civilian clothing, armed with metal bars, shovels, clubs with nails attached to them, machetes, and chains, confronted Montagnard protesters at more than a dozen locations leading into Buon Ma Thuot, the capital of Dak Lak province, on the morning of April 10. According to witnesses, the demonstrators were not armed, although some defended themselves when attacked by throwing stones at the police.

In twelve eyewitness accounts obtained by Human Rights Watch, sources from seven different locations in Dak Lak, Gia Lai and Dak Nong provinces described seeing Vietnamese police, and civilians working with the police, beating protesters. Vietnam's state-controlled media reported that two protesters were killed—one from rocks thrown by other protesters and another who

was run over by a tractor driven by Montagnards. While it is impossible to confirm the numbers of casualties because the government is barring outside observers from the region, to date Human Rights Watch has received credible eyewitness accounts that at least ten Montagnards were killed—one from a gunshot wound to the head and the others from beatings and hundreds were wounded.

Clashes broke out at more than a dozen locations when security forces and ethnic Vietnamese in civilian clothes blocked demonstrators on roadways leading into Buon Ma Thuot, including Phan Chu Trinh Road northwest of the city; at Ea Knir Bridge on the road from Ea Kao commune, which lies east of the city; and at three locations along the road leading to Krong Pak district town, which lies northeast of the city, including the Ea Pak and Krong Ana bridges. Particularly hard hit at Phan Chu Trinh Road were 3,000 protesters from several villages in Cu Mgar district, northwest of Buon Ma Thuot.

"The security forces were well prepared for the protesters," said PoKempner. "They had set up ambushes at key places such as bridges and the main roads into the city, and assembled people dressed as civilians holding crude weapons to block the roads and attack the protesters."

Security officials confiscated and burned hundreds of the farm tractors and makeshift trailers that many Montagnards were traveling on, which had been packed with food and supplies in preparation for several days of protests.

In Gia Lai province, Vietnamese state media reported that demonstrators from Ayun Pa, Cu Se, Dak Doa, Duc Co and Chu Prong districts gathered at the provincial administrative offices in Pleiku provincial town on April 10. On April 11, Montagnards gathered to demonstrate in numerous communes in Ayun Pa, Cu Se, and Dak Doa districts of Gia Lai. Human Rights Watch has received reports of clashes in at least seventeen locations in Gia Lai, with the fiercest incidents occurring in Ha Bau, A'Dok and Glar communes of Dak Doa district and Ia Tiem commune of Cu Se district.

State media reported that the provincial hospital in Pleiku received fifty-two injured people. The provincial hospital in Dak Lak reported forty injured people on the night of April 10. Prior to a government-imposed news blackout on hospital personnel, staff at Pleiku hospital told reporters that they had received scores of wounded people on Sunday night, many with deep gashes and head injuries, and that at least two demonstrators died that night. Many other wounded demonstrators, fearing arrest, have not gone to the hospitals despite being in need of medical attention, Human Rights Watch said.

Witnesses said authorities quickly collected wounded people and dead bodies from the Phan Chu Trinh area, and that within days, the blood on the roadway had been washed away.

Human Rights Watch stressed the urgency of an independent investigation. "We fear that a huge cover-up operation has likely already taken place," said PoKempner. "The Vietnamese government needs to account for the large numbers of people who never returned to their villages after the demonstrations and are now feared to be dead or detained at unknown locations."

Hundreds of Montagnards have fled their villages and gone into hiding, Human Rights Watch said. In violation of Cambodia's obligations under international law, Cambodian security forces have been instructed to deport any Montagnards who try to cross the border.

TESTIMONY: THE KILLINGS ON PHAN CHU TRINH ROAD

A twenty-six year old Ede woman described a deadly incident she witnessed on Saturday morning, April 10 when several thousand Montagnard protesters, some riding on their farm tractors, arrived at Phan Chu Trinh road, an industrial area of machine shops and welding supply stores on the outskirts of Buon Ma Thuot. Police had lined up students and ethnic Vietnamese men in civilian clothing holding metal bars, shovels, and machetes along the roadway, she said.

"They suddenly rushed at the unarmed crowd, beating the demonstrators until many were lying in the streets," she said. "They chased demonstrators who tried to flee, including children and women."

She and many other demonstrators fled to the coffee fields behind the shops lining the roadway, chased by security forces. She described what happened:

"A thousand people tried to get away from the slaughter by the police and civilians. They were beating us with metal bars and sticks. People were bleeding from their throats, noses, mouths, and eyes. The villagers were crying as they tried to get away from the slaughter by the police and civilians. We were running helter-skelter. Those who tried to hide in the coffee plantation were caught, beaten and killed on the spot. Police, students, and Vietnamese threw rocks at us. Many of us were bleeding from being hit on our heads with rocks. Many people were injured and bleeding. We didn't have any first-aid for their wounds. They were bleeding from their throats, noses, mouths, and eyes. A blind woman sitting on the farm tractor was killed on the road by a dozen Vietnamese people, including police. They asked her to get down from the tractor but she could not because she was blind. They rushed at her and beat her until she fell from the tractor and died. The police and Vietnamese civilians smashed and stepped on our food, clothing and blankets we had prepared for a long-term peaceful demonstration asking for freedom and the end to harassment of our religion and our Montagnard life."

HONORING NORVA MAXWELL, VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA CLINICIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Norva Maxwell of the Visiting Nurses Association of Central Jersey. Ms. Maxwell was recently chosen as the Visiting Nurse Association of America VNAA, Clinician of the Year among 90,000 VNAA Clinicians nationwide.

Norva Maxwell's holistic approach to patient care makes her highly effective as a community health nurse. Her clinical skills are impeccable. Her patience, sensitivity, and thoroughness allow her to detect problems others might have missed. In a number of instances, her experienced assessment has resulted in appropriate interventions for patients with assessment of respiratory distress, changes in mental status, or exacerbated injection.

Patients and families aptly describe Norva as "a credit to the nursing profession." There

are countless examples of Norva going beyond the requirements of her job, visiting patients on her own time to bring them home-made chicken soup or picking up medications at the pharmacy.

Norva provides professional and empathetic care to people of all ethnic, cultural, and financial backgrounds in a very ethnically diverse service area. Due to her extensive knowledge of area social programs, Norva regularly develops a safety net of services for patients ready for discharge.

Norva is a member of the Salvation Army, and she and her family have worked at the Salvation Army camps for many years. Norva is always an active volunteer with a shelter for homeless families, and has made it possible for the families to spend a week at the camp each summer.

Mr. Speaker, again, I congratulate Norva Maxwell who's strong clinical skills, compassionate spirit and interaction with the community make her a true Ambassador for her agency and for neighborhood nursing.

REV. EDWARD LISOWSKI CELEBRATES THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS 40TH YEAR OF ORDINATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the work of Father Edward Lisowski who is celebrating the 40th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood of the Milwaukee Archdiocese. He was ordained by Archbishop William E. Cousins at St. John's Cathedral on May 30, 1964.

Over the years Father Lisowski has served in a variety of capacities including Pastor or Associate Pastor for 18 years. He has been a Chaplain for 22 years with the Department of Veterans Affairs, serving veterans at the Zablocki VA Medical Center and the North Chicago Veterans Administration Hospital.

Father Lisowski has devoted his life to serving parishioners and patients of all walks of life and has generously and compassionately offered his support and spiritual guidance. A gifted and talented speaker and educator he continues to offer his wisdom and comfort to all who are in need.

Born in Cudahy, WI, to Wallace and Victoria Lisowski in 1936 he received his first Sacraments at Holy Family Parish in Cudahy graduating from the grade school and later graduating from Don Bosco High School. He also completed a bachelor of arts in philosophy degree from De Sales University, which was followed by 4 years of study of Theology at St. Francis Seminary. Father Lisowski was also granted a master's degree from Marquette University in 1979. In addition to taking extensive and advanced training in Clinical Pastoral Education Father Lisowski has distinguished himself by serving on several prestigious professional boards and organizations.

I want to congratulate Father Lisowski on this his 40th anniversary of commitment to God and the Catholic Church and extend my best wishes to him on this important occasion.

TRIBUTE TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON THE 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice to the chorus of Members sharing their warm wishes, praise, and congratulations to the State of Israel on its 56th anniversary of its Independence Day. I too am deeply gratified and proud of the many accomplishments of this relatively young country and the ancient people who have brought it into being and sustained it against astonishing odds.

Last week, Members commemorated Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day; today, Yom HaAtzmaot, Israel Independence Day. Appropriately, we go from tragedy to celebration, but there is no question the two events and the two moods are inseparable. Without the singular tragedy of the Holocaust there might not have been a State of Israel created; with a State of Israel in existence, there might not have been a Holocaust. Bonded together are birth and death; bottomless despair and limitless hope.

Unquestionably, Israel has achieved more than anyone might have believed fifty-six years ago. The Jewish State has created and sustained the only true democracy in the entire Middle East. Faced with an unending series of defensive wars, stringent military service requirements and necessarily high defense spending, in the entire region, Israel is the only country which routinely lives with genuine respect for civil rights, rule of law, due process, and authentic elections that reflect the will of a free people. The only state in the Middle East with a culture that is Western and open, full of dissent and argument, pulsing with innovation in the arts and constantly open to change is Israel. In the sphere of economics, Israel has transformed itself into miniature powerhouse. Israel's economy is vibrant and dynamic, pushing the boundaries of technology and attracting venture capital at a remarkable rate. Israeli scientists, doctors and engineers routinely contribute to the body of human knowledge, and produce inventions that make all our lives safer, more convenient and more enjoyable.

Given the historic combination of its emphasis on education and technology, and the freedom enjoyed by the Israeli people, it is no surprise that Israel, with a population of only a few million, has a gross domestic product above \$100 billion and an industrial base greater than all its neighbors combined. Not surprising but still miraculous.

Even more amazing is that Israel has achieved all this while also fulfilling its mandate as the safe harbor and refuge of the Jewish People. To succeed as Israel has is remarkable; to do so while absorbing millions of Jewish refugees from post-War Europe, the Arab states, from Ethiopia, and from the former Soviet Union is unfathomable. Millions of Jews from around the world, including this country, have made aliyah, have "gone up" to the Land of Israel, and made it their home. The result is a country which is an incredible mosaic, a new country formed in a timeless land by an ancient people.

And, as we all know, the Israel Defense Forces have made their reputation on the field of battle as one of the premier military organizations in human history. Unfortunately, tragically, they have been compelled to do so by circumstances not of their choosing. Israel has been under attack and at war for every single day of its existence. This painful fact is not now, and never has been, a result of the choices of Israel's government which has always sought peace and been desperate to make peace.

Mr. Speaker, no other country in the entire world is forced to endure a state of constant siege. No other country in the world regularly endures calls by other states for its extirpation. No other country in the world suffers the indignity of having terrorists committed to its destruction routinely described merely as "militants," or praised as "martyrs." No other country in the world is so unfairly isolated and routinely singled out for criticism and contempt.

Since President Harry Truman decided to ignore his advisors and chose to support the creation of Israel, the United States has been a true friend and ally to the Jewish State. Our values, our heritage, and our interests guide our special relationship, and it is no surprise our ties have only gotten stronger. In a time when both countries have been compelled to fight back against terrorism, there is no question we will only go from strength to strength.

Mr. Speaker, I am enormously proud of the ties between our nation and the State of Israel, and equally so, the support this House has shown again and again, without fail. On this occasion celebrating the 56th anniversary of Israel's Independence Day, I know the whole House joins me in extending to the Israeli people and their government the most enthusiastic of congratulations and best wishes for the many, many years of freedom and prosperity that are certain to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LAKE CHARLES NATIVE JEFFREY PARKER

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 9, 2004, my district suffered the loss of a brave American. KBR Contractor Jeffrey Parker of Moss Bluff, LA, was killed in an attack on a fuel convoy while working as a truck driver in Iraq. Jeff was one of seven contractors and two U.S. soldiers reported missing in the attack.

As he is laid to rest in Louisiana, we honor his commitment to his family, his work, and his country. As his company noted, these contractors that lost their lives were "brave hearts without medals, humanitarians without parades, and heroes without statues."

Neighbors described him as a "friend to everyone." Jeff was one of nine children in the Parker family. He was a father and a grandfather. He was to be married this summer after his work in Iraq was completed.

He took the job with KBR in Iraq to provide for his loved ones. He served his country in a vital support role and he tackled his job with courage, conviction, and bravery. He will be remembered as a hero whose spirit and determination defines the American spirit.