

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CURRENT SITUATION IN DARFUR

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last week the House Committee on Foreign Relations held an important hearing on the current situation in Darfur. I am grateful to Chairman TOM LANTOS for keeping this critical issue in the spotlight of the committee.

President Omar Hassan al-Bashir has proven that he considers the people of Darfur to be merely pawns in a game that he is playing with the international community. Even as his representative is sending a letter to the UN Secretary General accepting the Heavy Support Package that is supposed to lead to a joint UN-AU protective force in the region, we are receiving news reports that his government is flying arms and heavy military equipment into Darfur under the disguise of UN and AU aircraft in order to fuel the conflict.

The gulf between Bashir's actions and his words is as wide as the callous attitude I encountered when I met with him personally in Khartoum and the desperate, deeply grieved look on the faces of the refugees I met in the camps of Darfur. It is time for the global community to stop considering Bashir as a legitimate negotiating partner and to start treating him as he is—the despotic tyrant responsible for more than 400,000 deaths and 2 million people displaced from their homes in Darfur. That is in addition to the 2 million dead and 4 million who were displaced during the war in the south.

I welcome President Bush's announcement last week that our government will be taking several new steps if the Sudanese Government does not meet its commitments. I strongly urge the President to make that window of opportunity for Bashir to finally follow through on his word extremely short. Bashir has long since lost any entitlement to one day more than is absolutely necessary to establish peace in Darfur.

In order to be effective, however, the efforts of the United States must be joined by those of the international community. We must ALL decide that NOW is the time to end this crisis. Our partners on the UN Security Council should agree immediately to the resolution that will be introduced by the United States applying new sanctions against the Sudanese Government and any individual that violates human rights or obstructs the peace process. Particularly given the revelations of the government's continued military support to the Arab militias, the Security Council must also impose an expanded embargo on arms sales to the government of Sudan, prohibit Sudan's government from conducting any offensive military flights over Darfur, and strengthen the international community's ability to monitor and report any violations.

The Government of the People's Republic of China, in particular, should take a leadership

role in ending the Darfur conflict. Instead of lending money to Bashir for a new presidential palace, the Chinese Government should be pressuring him to enable the people of Darfur to live in their own homes in peace and security. I have long exhorted the Chinese Government to stop the reprehensible violation of the human rights of its own people, and I have signaled the upcoming 2008 Olympics in Beijing as a singular opportunity for the international community to insist on the respect of those rights. I applaud the outstanding efforts of Ms. Mia Farrow, one of our distinguished witnesses at the hearing, to galvanize the world to object to China's hosting of the Olympics at the same time it is ignoring the plight of our brothers and sisters suffering in Darfur. I would encourage my colleagues here in Congress to join these efforts with respect to the Olympics and to seek other measures to end the genocide.

COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S 59TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, today we commemorate Israel's 59th birthday. We all know some of the reasons why our 2 countries remain so close—an appreciation of democracy, human rights and peace, as well as a commitment to fighting terrorism and radicalism. But beyond the obvious lie a remarkably similar national narrative which has shaped our values and sense of national purpose.

In his recent book "Power, Faith and Fantasy: America in the Middle East," Michael Oren examines that narrative as well as the rich history of American support for a Jewish state in Israel. When William Bradford and the persecuted Puritans landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620, Bradford exclaimed "Come, let us declare the word of God in Zion." That's because the Puritans saw themselves as the New Israelites. They believed that God had finally delivered them from bondage to their new promised land. There, in freedom, they could shine a glowing light for the rest of the world to see. During the American Revolution, Oren describes, our leaders drew strong parallels to the Jews' struggle for repatriation. Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin even proposed for the Great Seal an image of Moses leading the Children of Israel toward the Holy Land.

This longing for freedom and tolerance in a new homeland also spawned the American democratic experiment. While our democracy remains imperfect, it has been our vision of a new, exceptional land that has motivated us to make America the greatest beacon of hope in the world. The Israelis are driven by similar desires.

Fifty-nine years ago today, Jews declared a state of their own. Several thousand had been

in Nazi concentration camps just a few years prior. In Israel, they saw a 2,000-year overdue opportunity to live free of persecution in their ancestral homeland. But before they could rejoice, five Arab armies attacked the nascent state on all fronts. Israel, despite long odds, emerged victorious and finally celebrated its victory. Still, it was bittersweet, since they had lost 6,000 people, at least 1 percent of the population.

Israel chose the song Hatikva, or "The Hope," as its national anthem. Fittingly, in a small Democracy perpetually terrorized by hostile enemies surrounding its territory, hope has sustained it. Israel's territory, devoid of natural resources, has been transformed into a prosperous state. Just as the United States has represented hope to the rest of the world for years, so too does Israel represent the limitless possibilities of freedom and hope.

HONORING PATRICK TURLEY OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS, RECIPIENT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S PHOENIX AWARD FOR SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER RECOVERY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor today to acknowledge Patrick Turley from Palmer, Massachusetts upon being named the recipient of the Small Business Administration's Phoenix Award for Small Business Disaster Recovery.

Patrick Turley, President of Turley Publications, received the Phoenix Award in Washington, DC today for his tremendous commitment to his community. SBA Administrator Steven Preston describes recipients of these awards as "individuals [who have] displayed tremendous courage and selflessness in the midst of the most devastating disasters ever experienced by our Agency." The SBA also describes the Phoenix Award as an acknowledgement of an individual's heroic efforts, and as "a token of appreciation for their support of the physical and economic recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast and New England States."

Turley Publications is one of New England's largest printers of community and university newspapers. Located in Palmer, Massachusetts, the company was founded in 1962 when Patrick H. and Thomas A. Turley purchased the Palmer Journal & Monson Register. From these humble beginnings, this locally owned family business has grown from 1 weekly newspaper into a chain of 15 weekly newspapers ringing the Springfield market and 3 monthly specialty publications with national circulations.

In addition, Turley Publications prints student newspapers and magazines for the 5 sister colleges in the Springfield/Holyoke region—as well as for Harvard University, Yale

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

University, Boston University, Boston College, Tufts University, and UMass-Amherst. Turley Publications has been printing the Daily Collegian, the UMass Amherst student newspaper, since that publication went daily in 1967. It also prints other newspapers, including the Worcester Business Journal and its sister publications Hartford Business Journal, and MaineBiz, as well as the Holden Landmark.

Today, Turley Publications remains locally owned and operated by Patrick Turley and his sons Keith and Doug. They are responsible for nearly 250 employees working in various locations. The two main production facilities are located in West Springfield and Palmer, Massachusetts.

Turley Publications was forced to stop the presses in October 2005 when floodwater caused property losses over 900 thousand dollars. I visited Turley Publications immediately after the flooding occurred and can personally attest to the severity of the damage at the Water Street facility in Palmer.

But high water didn't stop Patrick Turley from tackling the job that needed to be done. He decided he wasn't going to miss a deadline. Dedicated employees helped with the cleanup, electricity was restored, and 2 university newspapers were printed on time. Turley received an SBA disaster loan and within 5 months the plant was running once more at full capacity.

I had the honor of meeting with Patrick Turley and his wife Ann today when they visited my Washington office. I would like to echo the accolades of the Small Business Administration in recognizing Patrick Turley as an extraordinary businessman and citizen. Congratulations.

COMMON-SENSE GUN LEGISLATION IS NEEDED NOW

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my condolences to the families of the 32 Virginia Tech students and teachers who lost their lives due to senseless gun violence on April 16, 2007. I would also like the families of Columbine High School tragedy—which occurred 8 years ago on April 20th—to know that my thoughts and prayers are with them as well. As those two tragedies demonstrate, we are not doing enough to protect our schools, workplaces, homes, and communities from gun violence. In honor of all the victims of gun violence, I call on my colleagues to pass tougher gun laws, including requiring more stringent background checks and banning the use of assault weapons and high-ammunition clips.

It is a well-known fact that it takes very little time and is very easy and for individuals to buy powerful weapons in this country. In fact, depending on the state, it takes anywhere from just 2 hours to a mere 2 minutes to conduct a background check. Since it took the assailant in the Virginia Tech case only 10 minutes to get approval to buy a gun, it is no wonder that the store from which he made his purchase missed the fact that a court had ordered him to undergo outpatient treatment. Federal law states that anyone who has been

adjudicated for being a "mental defective", as the assailant had, cannot purchase weapons. Had there not been an expedited process for buying a gun, and the background check relying on the self-reporting of mental illness, perhaps this tragedy could have been prevented. I support the efforts of my colleagues, Representatives MCCARTHY and DINGELL, to provide federal funding to states for computers systems that will allow them to promptly upload information about potential gun buyers from the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. As we have tragically learned, we can no longer wait for all states to get online.

Additionally, we need to renew the bans on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition clips. We have allowed this ban to expire, every day more police officers and innocent families are in sight of criminals wielding Uzis, Tec-9s, AK-47s. And, high-capacity ammunition clips—which have no purpose other than to kill people—allowed the gunman at Virginia Tech to kill 32 students and teachers. Because of the high-capacity ammunition clips, even those who survived were left with multiple bullet wounds.

Every day that we allow to pass without a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition clips is another day that Americans are needlessly put at risk. We need to support and pass Representative McCarthy's, H.R. 1022, the Assault Weapons Ban, which would renew that ban.

I am proud to represent the 9th Congressional District, a district that is strongly in favor of getting guns off our streets. Chicago, Wilmette, Morton Grove and Evanston have laws outlawing handguns, and I think this is a great start. We need to bring that commitment to our children's safety, to the safety of our neighborhoods, and to the safety of our schools, to the rest of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber yesterday, April 23, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 245, 246 and 247.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to other Congressional business, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, April 23, 2007.

Had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 245, 246, and 247.

H.R. 1338, THE PAYCHECK
FAIRNESS ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Equal Pay Day. Issues of equity and fairness are integral to the strength of our democracy. Pay equity, and its effect on every person in the U.S., is a vital issue and it is unconscionable that in the 21st century, the vast majority of women are still not paid fairly for their work. I look forward to the day when every person, regardless of their gender, race or ethnicity, is receiving equal pay for equal work.

According to the Census, women are paid, on average, 77 cents per one dollar earned by a man. Racial and ethnic disparities exacerbate this difference with African American women making 66 cents, Latinas making 55 cents and Asian American women making 80 cents. A recent study by the American Association of University Women reveals that the income gap between men and women widens dramatically following graduation from college, growing from a 20 percent difference immediately following graduation to a 31 percent difference ten years later. This gap persisted despite controls for numbers of hours worked, parenthood, and occupation choice.

I am a proud co-sponsor of H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which will improve the remedies available to victims of wage discrimination based on sex. Passage of this legislation will be one of many societal changes we have seen over the past one hundred years of women's struggle for equality in America, but there remains much to be done. The current income gap continues to stand in the way of true equality and as a Nation we must work to close the gap faster than the current, abysmally slow, 1.5 cents per year. There are rays of sunshine to be seen on the horizon, but we cannot consider this particular battle won. I look forward to continuing the struggle for equality with my colleagues in Congress during the 110th Congress.

CELEBRATING LIFE OF MARTIE J. "JAY" ABOUSSIE, JR.

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Martie J. "Jay" Aboussie, Jr., the devoted son of Martie and LeEllen Aboussie and the loving brother of Amy Aboussie.

Jay earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from St. Louis University, and graduated with honors on May 14, 2005 while maintaining nearly perfect attendance in spite of his chronic health problems.

Jay's family, friends, and numerous people unknown to Jay have been inspired by his bravery, courage, and deep religious faith. He refused to surrender to the debilitating physical ailments which ultimately took his life.

Jay's leadership qualities and academic excellence were recognized by the Faculty and