

School asking for a return to the rule of law and the release of their former student.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY OF SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW ON GENERAL MUSHARRAF'S ABRIGATION OF RULE OF LAW

We are deeply concerned about the abrogation of the Rule of Law in Pakistan. General Musharraf, in a brazen attempt to perpetuate his own rule, has used his state apparatus to disband the highest courts of the country. Thousands of lawyers, journalists, judges, human rights activists have been jailed. In many cases families have no idea of the whereabouts of the detainees.

Our own concern is particularly sparked by the arrest and detention of one of our graduates, Muneeb Malik, the Immediate Past President of the Pakistani Supreme Court Bar Association. His fate is, of course, merely a small part of the overall tragedy taking place but as we know him to be a conscientious, industrious lawyer dedicated to the welfare of his country, and not in the least a threat to law and order; he symbolizes the injustice being practiced.

We, in fact, are not an organized political group. We have never before joined in a statement of this sort with each other. What brings us together in this plea is the fact that we are all professors of law who teach in the law school which graduated Mr. Malik and who share a respect for the rule of law. We deplore what has happened. We assume that many more people like him have been swept from public view. The Supreme and High Court judges have been locked in their own homes. Police have stormed into bar-association gatherings and have manhandled lawyers, some of them women, some of them septuagenarian! TV stations have been blacked out and police vans are carting off telecommunication equipment from private TV stations.

The U.S. must use all its influence and in no uncertain terms demand the restoration of the Supreme Court status quo ante Nov 2nd 2007. It must demand the immediate release of and accounting for all persons who have been jailed after the promulgation of the so-called emergency. It should be recalled that President Musharraf removed the Chief Justice once before, a short while ago, and that he was forced to rescind his order because of the pressure of world opinion. The embattled civil society in Pakistan must realize that America stands for the rule of Law and the liberty of all peoples.

Signed by:

George Alexander, Dean and Professor of Law Emeritus.

Patricia Cain, Inez Mabie Professor of Law. Colleen Chien, Assistant Professor of Law. Rev. Paul Goda, S.J., Professor of Law. Allen Hammond, Phil and Bobbie San Filippo Professor of Law.

Ellen Kreitzberg Professor of Law.

Philip Jimenez Professor of Law.

Jean Love Elizabeth H. and John A. Sutro Professor of Law.

Gary Neustadter Professor of Law.

Michelle Oberman Professor of Law.

Robert Peterson Professor of Law.

Mack Player Professor of Law and Director, Center for Global Law and Policy.

Margaret Russell Professor of Law.

Catherine Sandoval Assistant Professor of Law.

Jiri Toman Professor of Law.

Gerald Uelman Professor of Law and Director, California Commission for the Fair Administration of Justice.

Stephanie Wildman Professor of Law and Director, Center for Social Justice and Public Service.

Nancy Wright Professor of Law.

Eric Wright Professor of Law.
David Yosifon Assistant Professor of Law.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRALEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SOUTHEASTERN DROUGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to call to the attention of Congress what is occurring in the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. When you look at the statistics and look at the effects, there is only one word that can describe this drought—it is a total disaster.

This isn't a disaster like a tornado or a hurricane, where you have one big storm and it's over, or a big fire. This drought is a continuous process, and the impact adds up over time. The drought is the worst one on record in the Southeast and in my home State of North Carolina.

We know that this entire Southeast region has had about 19 inches less rainfall than we should have had this year, and some areas have received even less. You can see from this map what a large area of severe drought we now have.

The States that have been the hardest hit include Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Virginia.

In North Carolina, our Governor has ordered citizens to halt all non-essential water use. This drought has affected our farmers to an extent so great that it is now affecting our rural communities. Plants are having their production levels cut to save water. Some communities have only a few months of water supply remaining. In my district, the Second District of North Carolina, nearly the entire area has been afflicted by what is called an exceptional drought, and this is the most severe level. Farmers have been struggling all year from this truly epic weather condition.

Mr. Speaker, I am working in Congress to provide some relief. Last month, the House Agriculture Committee held a hearing to shine a spotlight on this growing disaster, and the Governor of our State, Governor Easley, testified himself as to the magnitude of this crisis.

Many of my colleagues may have seen this week that in my neighboring State of Georgia, the Governor has even called a meeting and asked for prayer. I am all for praying for rain, but, my friends, it is going to take more than prayer.

I have written a letter to the President asking for assistance. This letter

was signed by 54 of my fellow colleagues here in Congress from both sides of the aisle.

Farmers are some of the most resourceful and ingeniously productive people around, but there is just so much that you can do to grow crops, raise livestock or poultry without one of the essentials of life, and that is water.

Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight to raise a greater awareness, because we all need to work together to help solve this problem. People need to realize how serious it really is.

I am concerned that some folks may think the crisis might be solved if we get just a little rain. Unfortunately, our farmers tell me the damage has already been done, and I can agree, having visited a lot of farms. Even if we had a nice soaking rain this week and next week and the week after that and the week after that, it has been said that we will need 25 inches of rain in the next 6 months just to get the water level back to where it was. We've lost our cotton, our beans, our corn, and many of the other crops, and they won't be able to grow this winter unless we get more ground water. The crop this year is now lost.

The problem today is that too many Americans think that the food that they eat comes from the grocery store. I want them to understand, that's just where they go to pick it up. That food comes from a farm. They forget that it's the farmer out in the field working every day of the year to make sure that Americans have the most bountiful and least expensive food supply in the world. It's hard work, it's a huge gamble, and for the farmers in the Southeast this year, they lost.

It's time that this Congress, Mr. Speaker, joined hands and helped these folks. They have always been there for us, and now we need to be there for them.

Our farmers in rural communities desperately need assistance. It is my hope that we can pass the relief package before this year ends and that the President will sign it and will help these farmers and their families in rural communities across the whole Southeast be back in the fields next year providing food and fiber for the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WAR IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the Joint Economic Committee of Congress

reported yesterday on the hidden costs of the occupation of Iraq. We learned that the true cost so far is \$1.3 trillion, or nearly double the amount the administration has been talking and has requested. And the price tag could soar to nearly \$3.5 trillion if we continue on the administration's reckless course in Iraq.

The hidden financial costs of our involvement in Iraq are staggering, but yesterday we also learned that there are hidden human costs as well that are truly, truly heartbreaking.

CBS News reported last night that the suicide rate among veterans is over twice as great as the suicide rate for the general population. In 2005 alone, there were at least 6,256 suicides among veterans in the 45 States that provided data to CBS. That is an astonishing 17 suicides per day for just that one year.

Those statistics are for veterans of all wars, and they are shocking. But the statistics for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are even more devastating. Veterans aged 20 to 24 have the highest suicide rate of all. For these young men and women, the suicide rate is two to four times higher than the suicide rate for the general population.

And yet another report published yesterday in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that the mental health problems of Iraq veterans are much greater than previously thought. It found that Iraq veterans are more likely to report alcohol abuse, family conflicts, depression, and posttraumatic stress disorder after being home for 6 months than immediately after their return. The suicide statistics tell us that the real Iraq death toll is significantly higher than the official count of just over 3,860. And the mental health statistics tell us that the real number of wounded is much, much higher than the reported number of around 28,000.

All of this terrible news means that we can no longer sit around and do nothing about the occupation of Iraq. We must take action immediately, and we must take it in two ways.

First, America must do a much better job of meeting the physical and mental health needs of our veterans. The administration has underfunded and ignored the Veterans Administration system, leaving veterans stuck in a bureaucratic nightmare that stops them from getting the health care that they need. Congress has passed a bill that would help veterans to get care much faster. It improves conditions at VA hospitals and invests in new ways to treat physical and mental problems caused by the war. The President needs to sign that bill as soon as possible.

And, second, we must move immediately to end the occupation of Iraq and redeploy our troops. That is why I voted today for H.R. 4156, the Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act.

While the bill is not perfect, it essentially says that funds authorized for

Iraq will not be used to continue the occupation, but are to be used to achieve the safe and orderly redeployment of our troops out of Iraq.

That is what I and many others have been demanding, and that is what the American people have been asking. It is time to stop the death. It is time to stop the suffering. It is time to bring our brave troops home and do everything we can to help them and their families to rebuild their lives. Anything less is unacceptable and immoral.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRALEY of Iowa). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICANS ARE PRAYING FOR RAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Mrs. BOYDA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, tonight Americans across the Southeast are praying for rain. As drought conditions have stretched from weeks into months, residents face a stark reminder of how one of our most precious resources, water, can also be one of our most unpredictable.

The lessons of natural disaster all too familiar to the good folks back home in Kansas. In the past year, nearly every county in Kansas has suffered from disastrous conditions.

The weather has been hard on many of us, but especially on our farmers and ranchers, who depend on nature to earn their living. It's hard to find words to express their concern, their worry. Many have worked the same acreage for decades, and they've always trusted that if they treat their land right, if they plow its soil and they plant it carefully and tend it for many months, it will reward them with a crop that will earn their living.

But in so many counties, disaster conditions have slashed crop yields. Ranchers face their own problems as animal feed prices soar.

Kansas farmers and ranchers are good hardworking people, but lately they've found that the land and the weather are betraying them. That's why it's so important that earlier this year Congress passed a critical agricultural disaster relief package. These funds helped Kansans continue to farm and ranch in spite of the ever-present threats of drought, fire and other catastrophes.

Today I urge America to come together once again to show the same compassion to our brothers and sisters in the Southeast. Farmers are finding

that no matter how much they care and the effort that they devote to their land, their crops simply won't grow. These hardworking families can't make ends meet and they need a helping hand from Congress.

I urge my colleagues to remember the struggles of farmers and ranchers in the Southeast, in Kansas and across America who continue to confront the challenge of this difficult weather.

And again, we're praying tonight for the rain for the Southeast, and it looks like we might get some rain, and we are just blessed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE ORDERLY AND RESPONSIBLE IRAQ REDEPLOYMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4156, the Orderly Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act, just passed.

Let me be clear about why I voted for it. This legislation is a compromise that I hate, but it's the only way to move the agenda of the American people forward. This legislation is anything but perfect, but it does make important strides.

It requires the President to use funding to begin to redeploy U.S. soldiers out of Iraq within 30 days of enactment and sets a goal for complete redeployment by December 15, 2008.

It requires the President to implement a comprehensive diplomatic political and economic strategy to bring stability to Iraq. For the first time, the President will actually have a plan in Iraq.

It requires the President to report to Congress. It will end the secrecy that has surrounded everything about this war.

And it requires the President to accept what the rest of us know, that waterboarding is torture. It is a crime, and this bill says it's not going to be used in the interrogation of prisoners.

After World War II, we prosecuted Japanese soldiers for waterboarding U.S. prisoners of war. But the President's new Attorney General is walking around wondering about whether waterboarding is a crime.

House Republicans who voted "no" said they're willing to sacrifice the will of the American people at the altar of blind political obedience to the White House.

If Republicans in the Senate filibuster this bill, they'll be telling the American people to go away because