

Everett, Damon and Kiel; eleven great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Madam Speaker, As a result of Willie James service to our Nation, he leaves a multitude of colleagues, constituents, benefactors, and laborers to continue the work he had manifested in his life for their prosperity and for future generations to come. Though Willie is no longer with us, we will continue to keep his memory alive in our hearts and minds, and continue to honor his legacy with our advocacy for the issues he cared about the most.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present in the Capitol for one vote on Thursday, October 29, 2009.

However, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 729, designating a "National Firefighters Memorial Day" to honor and celebrate the firefighters of the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 2, 2009, I was unable to be present for the last two series of recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 832 (on passage of the bill H.R. 1168, as amended), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 833 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 291), and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 834 (on passage of the bill S. 509).

HONORING KYLE TODD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Todd, a very special young man who has earned a spot on the National USA Karate Team. I join with Kyle's family and friends in expressing best wishes on his significant achievement. I commend Kyle on attaining such a high honor and wish him the best of luck as he competes in the World Karate Championships in Dublin, Ireland, this October.

Gaining recognition for this remarkable achievement reflects both Kyle's hard work and dedication. As a member of the stand-alone Missouri team, as well as the team with the largest number of students to be selected from a single school, Kyle should be proud of his accomplishments. He is a member of a celebrated team and has represented the

state of Missouri well. With such drive and determination I am certain Kyle will be a strong contribution to the national team.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you join with me in commending Kyle Todd for his success with Sensei Mark Long's Shotokan Karate team and for his effort put forth in achieving this prestigious goal.

OPPOSING ANY ENDORSEMENT OR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FACT FINDING MISSION ON THE GAZA CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 867, which calls on the President and the Secretary of State to oppose unequivocally any endorsement or further consideration of the Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, commonly referred to as the Goldstone Report.

President of the Human Rights Council established the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict with the mandate "to investigate all violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law that might have been committed during military operations that were conducted in the Gaza Strip."

The report accused Israel of "war crimes" and "crimes against humanity", while downplaying evidence of Hamas' real war crimes and largely dismissing Israel's extraordinary efforts to minimize civilian casualties.

In a turbulent part of the world, we can count on the friendship of Israel because we share the important values of freedom of religion, speech and thought—values that aren't universally shared across the Middle East.

And yet when Israel responds to defend itself, it is singled out unfairly at the United Nations and elsewhere for special condemnation and criticism. It is our responsibility, as a friend and ally to Israel, to stand up for their rights and denounce those that unreasonably target Israel for reproach. While Israel is not perfect, we must be ever watchful and steadfast because there is an unfortunate double standard.

Israel showed extraordinary restraint in response to terrorism and daily rocket attacks emanating from fanatical Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip, and yet until Israel responded militarily, the UN and the world looked away. I can think of no country in the world that would have shown such restraint in the face of direct attacks on their civilians.

Hamas launched 7,000 rocket and mortar attacks on Israeli cities between the pullout from Gaza in 2005 and 2009—Hamas' military doctrine makes no distinction between non-combatants and military targets.

During the ground fighting in Gaza, Hamas used mosques, schools and hospitals as military sites and employed civilians as human shields—clear violations of the law of war.

Unintentional civilian deaths Israel caused during the Gaza conflict are condemned as war crimes; the intentional Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians are swept under the rug.

There can be no moral equivalency made between Hamas and Israel, and this report's biased conclusion makes it clear, once again, that the United Nations Human Rights Council is a farce.

FORMER EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DR. AYMAN NOUR DENIED TRAVEL TO U.S.

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the following statement released by former Egyptian presidential candidate and political prisoner Dr. Ayman Nour who was restricted from traveling to the United States by Egyptian authorities.

On November 3, 2009, the Egyptian public prosecutor issued an administrative decision preventing me from traveling to the U.S. and to other countries in the Middle East and Europe. My visit to the U.S. was scheduled for November 6, 2009.

The decision by the public prosecutor came as a shock, and is unjustified, especially in light of the recent permit I was granted for a visit to the European Parliament in April 2009. During that visit, I met with various European leaders and underwent substantial medical examinations. I was forced to postpone other necessary physical examinations because I could not obtain a visa for the UK from Belgium.

The public prosecutor's decision conflicts with Egyptian Constitution, Article 52, which stipulates that, "it is not acceptable to prohibit a citizen from staying somewhere or to be forced to stay somewhere." Article 52 states that "citizens have the right to permanent or temporary immigration abroad." Adding to this is the absence of objective reasons given by the authorities that would have prevented me from practicing my right. In other words, there is no probability that I will escape while I am abroad, and I do not owe money to any entity, which means that restricting is uncalled for and unnecessary. The double standard in my case is evident in the fact that the public prosecutor permitted others with real legal obstacles, similar to those described above to travel abroad in the past.

The public prosecutor justified his politically motivated restriction by referring to the fact that I was released from prison on February 18, 2009 for medical reasons, while my official release date had been set for July 22, 2009. This decision was based on claim 12886/63Q dated April 21, 2009, which allowed me to obtain an automatic curtailment of my sentence according to Article 86 of Prisons Bylaw 79/1961. The fact that I was granted an exit permit on March 15, 2009 for my Europe visit mentioned above, is further indication that the current travel restriction is unwarranted.

I would like to present the following facts: (1) The public prosecutor's decision is only one example in a series of aggression, abuses, and insistence of the political regime to deprive me of my basic human rights, including the following:

a. The right to work and earn a living as an attorney. The temporary governmental committee which ran the Association Bar canceled my membership in April 2009. I was the only individual to receive this cancellation despite the fact that there were dozen of similar cases.

b. The right to sell my assets. The notary public offices were instructed to prevent me from registering any contracts unless I provide documents proving my release. To date I have been unsuccessful in obtaining a legal declaration of my release from any governmental authority. Likewise, they subsequently prevented me from opening a bank account. These restrictions not only affect my professional life, but intrude upon my personal life, including the ability to sustain my family and to seek the necessary medical attention I require after incurring serious injuries during my four years in prison.

c. The right to healthcare coverage. As a registered journalist, I should enjoy the benefit of health insurance coverage through the Supreme Council of Journalism and Press Syndicate. This has also been restricted to me, as the syndicate was instructed to freeze my salary and prevent me from my legal right to receive medical treatment.

d. The right to appear in court to claim my civil rights. I have been prevented from appearing before several courts to make any claims for my basic civil rights.

e. The right to file claims of defamation. The public prosecutor prevented me from filing the claims of defamation to the criminal court. I subsequently published these claims in the media. More than two thousand of these claims have been frozen, which encourages more illegal moral attacks against me.

f. The right to re-open my case in light of new evidence proving my innocence. The public prosecutor has failed to grant my request to review my claim in light of the newly acquired evidence of my innocence. This evidence would serve to acquit me from the original verdict by the Court of Administrative Justice, which took criminal proceedings against me on January 29, 2005.

g. The right to speak to the state-owned media. I am currently restricted from responding to claims broadcast against me in the state-owned media. The public prosecutor did not consider my claims to respond to the claims against me in the state-owned media.

h. The right to establish an NGO or join any social organization or group. At the instruction of the State Security forces, I have been deprived from establishing any non-governmental organization or from joining any social or sport clubs. They threatened one of the clubs that granted me an honorary membership and forced them to remove me.

i. The right to privacy. I am monitored at all hours of the day by government security forces. Recently, I have embarked on a "knock-on-the-door" campaign to meet citizens throughout Egypt. During these events, government security personnel followed me continuously. In addition, my phone calls remain illegally tapped.

j. The right to actively participate in politics. I have been restricted from practicing my political and partisan rights. This decision is being held up by an outdated 1937 Supreme Constitutional Court ruling, which subsequently has been discontinued by newer rulings from the same court which provides persons in my similar situation to receive the right to participate in politics, even after serving prison time.

It is evident to the public that such abuses arose in response to my political stances in an attempt to control my political and personal life. The authorities claim they are doing right by me in releasing me for health reasons on February 18, 2009, only very few months before the legal release. It is plain to see that this early release is in line with their goal of suffocating me politically and depriving me of my basic human rights.

(2) Regarding my trip to the U.S. and other countries, the following facts should be stated:

a. I received an invitation from the Coalition of Egyptian Organizations in the U.S. to speak to Egyptians and Egyptian Americans living in various states. The same coalition invited Gamal Mubarak, Omar Suliman, Amr Mousa, Ahmed Zweil, Mohamed Elbaradie, and a number of other public figures.

b. The aforementioned invitation met my earnest desire to meet with Egyptian communities abroad and to discuss their problems and issues of interest. I also received some other invitations from other organizations and entities including the following:

Council on Foreign Relations, National Endowment for Democracy, various think tanks, American universities, U.S. congressmen and political figures, Egyptian communities in three major states, U.S. media representatives.

c. The invitations do not include any meetings with representatives of the U.S. Administration. I have already announced that the main purpose of my visit is not to conduct high-profile meetings. I plan to focus solely on meetings with the Egyptian and American citizens and U.S. public representatives. This visit was motivated by my belief in communicating with the global community to advocate our political and partisan views. Other political figures from Egypt made similar visits recently, including Gamal Mubarak, who visited the U.S. several times, and Chief of Parliament, Fathi Sorour, who is set to meet today with Egyptians in the U.S.; the same day I received the government decision preventing my travel plans.

d. My request for travel was submitted to the public prosecutor three months ago, to which I received no response. I subsequently re-submitted the same request several times until he finally got back to me with demands for more details about the invitations I received from the U.S., as well as information about the medical examinations I plan on undergoing. After several back-and-forth messages dealing with requests for translation of documents' authenticity and such, it was clear that the public prosecutor was insisting on delaying procedures. This situation concluded with a negative response today in answer to my 3-month long request for travel permission.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the various organizations and groups which invited me to visit the U.S. Because of the unfortunate decision by the Egyptian public prosecutor, I am forced to remain in the country at this time. I will continue with my plan to address the Egyptian and American community via video conference. I would like to thank in particular the Coalition of Egyptian Organizations in the U.S. and its leaders, among which include: Cameel Halim, Saad Eddin Ibrahim, Dina Guirgus, and Omar Afifi, all who exerted tremendous effort to organize the proposed events in the U.S. and worked closely with colleagues here in Cairo to make the necessary arrangements for my potential visit to the U.S.

The Egyptian public prosecutor's decision to prevent me from traveling abroad compels us to work even more fervently overcoming the legal obstacles we face. We are not canceling the visit to the U.S., but consider this only a postponement for another date, which we are tentatively scheduling for 2010.

We call upon the Egyptian and international community, as well as to human rights organizations worldwide to condemn the aforementioned abuses, which are an assassination to my civil rights and human rights, and are more painful and damaging than the physical suffering I yet experience. My treatment in Egypt is in direct contradiction to the international conventions signed by Egypt, most importantly, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

We assert that insistence on violating our rights will increase our belief in the right of Egyptians to democratic and nonviolent reform. We will work diligently on putting an end to the unjust and unacceptable situation of civil and human rights in Egypt. We will continue to fight against the inheritance of our country to despotic rule, and against the deprivation of our people from practicing their rights.

HONORING MATT CARPENTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matt Carpenter, a very special young man who has earned a spot on the National USA Karate Team. I join with Matt's family and friends in expressing best wishes on his significant achievement. I commend Matt on attaining such a high honor and wish him the best of luck as he competes in the World Karate Championships in Dublin, Ireland, this October.

Gaining recognition for this remarkable achievement reflects both Matt's hard work and dedication. As a member of the stand-alone Missouri team, as well as the team with the largest number of students to be selected from a single school, Matt should be proud of his accomplishments. He is a member of a celebrated team and has represented the state of Missouri well. With such drive and determination I am certain Matt will be a strong contribution to the national team.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you join with me in commending Matt Carpenter for his success with Sensei Mark Long's Shotokan Karate team and for his effort put forth in achieving this prestigious goal.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 783, Recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the vast contributions of Latino Americans to the strength and culture of the United States. The rich history of the United States is strengthened by the important contributions of Latinos, who have played major roles in building this country and making it a better place.

From the Revolutionary War to the conflicts we are fighting overseas today, Latinos have proudly served this country and willingly sacrificed their lives for the preservation of our great nation. In addition to serving in the armed forces, Latinos have helped our country take great steps forward in the fields of medicine and science and have contributed greatly to the advancement of business, education, civil rights, and politics.

I am proud to represent the First District of Connecticut, whose cultural fabric has been