

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

greatly enriched by the Latino community. I am especially proud of the accomplishments of SAMA, the Spanish American Merchants Association, a Connecticut nonprofit with more than 300 members that provides technical assistance, educational programs and loan programs for small businesses in the community. SAMA's Empresario Latino Development Center is the small business premier provider of educational resources, material, and training in English/Spanish for entrepreneurs in the State of Connecticut.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and ask that we continue to celebrate the many contributions of Latinos to our nation in the months to come.

COMMENDING CARL, MARTIN AND
TED RESNICK OF HUNTERDON
COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend three outstanding citizens in my Seventh Congressional District—Carl, Ted and Martin Resnick of Hunterdon County, New Jersey.

On Wednesday, November 11 these three outstanding individuals will receive the 2009 Distinguished Citizen Award from the Central New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

All three of these men are receiving this prestigious award for their commitment to the Boy Scouts in Hunterdon County and their strong commitment to the entire Hunterdon County community. Whether it be their involvement in local sports teams, clubs, service organizations, wildlife refuge efforts, the arts, or area first responders, the Resnick family has made significant contributions to our community.

As a lifelong resident of Hunterdon County, I have known Carl, Ted and Martin Resnick and their family for most of my life. In addition to owning the Flemington Department Store—which is a family-owned business—the Resnick family has been active members of the Hunterdon County community for more than 50 years.

In addition to his role at the Flemington Department Store, Carl Resnick is a strong advocate for blood donor programs and has donated more than eight gallons of blood to help others. Ted Resnick may be best known for his 40-year involvement in the Hunterdon County wrestling program where he still volunteers as a coach, mentor, referee and supporter. Martin Resnick has been very active in community affairs such as organizing a collection center for relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Because of their hard work and devotion to the entire Hunterdon County community, I am pleased to join the Central New Jersey Council Boy Scouts of America in commending Carl, Martin and Ted Resnick. I am also pleased to share their good efforts and contributions with my colleagues in the United States Congress and with the American people.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO BERTHA
RICHARDSON

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on November 2, the family and friends of Mrs. Bertha Richardson gathered together to celebrate Mrs. Richardson's 100th birthday. I am pleased to extend belated birthday greetings to Mrs. Richardson. Mrs. Richardson is a life-long resident of Rosharon, Texas, which is in my congressional district. As the matriarch of her extended family, Mrs. Richardson continues to her relatives, and all members of her community, with the gifts of her faith and wisdom. I urge all my colleagues to join me in sending our best wishes to Bertha Richardson on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

HONORING SAM CROCKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sam Crocker, a very special young man who has earned a spot on the National USA Karate Team. I join with Sam's family and friends in expressing best wishes on his significant achievement. I commend Sam 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 Sam'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, Sam 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 Sam will be a strong contribution to the national team.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 835, 836, 837, 838, 839 and 840 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all.

TRIBUTE TO MARY SHAFER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to a beloved philanthropist

from my district and one of the most selfless and kindhearted persons I have ever known.

Mary Shafer recently passed away after battling breast cancer for 14 years. During that prolonged fight she never lost her faith in God and tirelessly continued her charity work.

With her husband Bo—who served as the President of Kiwanis International from 2000–2001—Mary traveled all over the World helping the indigent. Her compassion and service had no boundaries. Bo and Mary believed their work with Kiwanis was a privilege, not a duty, and they left an immeasurable mark on more people than can be counted.

Mary's most passionate cause was providing clean drinking water to people in developing countries. Many people admirably serve their community or donate money to charity, but it takes a very special and resilient person to perform such challenging work in some of the World's most impoverished places.

Closer to home, Mary also served numerous other causes and served on or chaired the boards of many agencies like the Volunteer Mission Center, the United Way, and the Florence Crittenton Agency.

Bo recently told the Knoxville News Sentinel following Mary's passing that he was head-over-heels in love with her, and, "We never had an argument. Her goal in life was to keep a smile on my face, and my goal in life was to keep a smile on her face."

Mary was very active in the Second Presbyterian Church in Knoxville and a devout Christian. According to her family, her last words were, "Thank you, Lord Jesus. I had a great time."

Even in the face of such a lengthy and difficult illness, Mary thanked her creator for all the blessings in her life. For Mary, He had a special purpose, and although the Lord decided to call her home, she will not be forgotten by all those she knew and comforted.

Madam Speaker, the passing of Mary Shafer is a tremendous loss for my district, her husband, Bo, and her countless family and friends. I call her service and faith in God to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD and thank her for being a shining example to us all.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 867, a resolution standing against further action on the "Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict," also known as the "Goldstone Report."

From its inception, the Gaza report was rooted in an orchestrated campaign to delegitimize Israel. It was commissioned by the U.N. Human Rights Council, an institution obsessed with condemning Israel. In his response to the Goldstone Report, Michael Posner, the Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, noted that the