

make a \$5.5 billion payment to OPM by September 30, 2011 to pre-fund retiree health benefits. However, the Postal Service does not currently have adequate funds to make this payment. To address this issue, the CR includes a provision that will delay the payment to provide time for the Postal Service to work with Congress and the Administration to develop a long-term solution.

If only the on-budget effects were counted, this delay would score as an increase in spending in 2011, but then produce savings in 2012, resulting in additional room for spending under the caps on discretionary spending established in the Budget Control Act of 2011. To prevent this unintended consequence, the House Budget Committee scored this anomaly on a unified basis, so that both the on-budget and off-budget effects were counted together. As a result, the 2011 cost and the 2012 savings offset each other and produce a score of zero in the CR. This decision has precedent. A similar provision was included in the FY 2010 short-term CR (P.L. 111-68) where the House scored that provision on a unified basis pursuant to section 426(b) of the 2010 budget resolution.

The off-budget status of the U.S. Postal Service creates significant complications for budget enforcement when the agency seeks timing shifts or bailouts from the U.S. Treasury due to financial distress. The House Budget Committee will continue to monitor this anomaly throughout the budget and appropriations process to ensure that it does not result in additional discretionary spending in FY 2012.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN
CARRIE MEEK

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize Congresswoman Carrie Meek and her lifelong devotion to public service.

For over a decade, Congresswoman Meek served in the Florida State House of Representatives and Senate. In 1993, Congresswoman Meek became the first African American since Reconstruction to be elected to the United States House of Representatives from the state of Florida.

Congresswoman Meek fought against cuts to social welfare programs throughout the 1990s. Instead, she worked to expand federal programs that could create jobs and make it easier for minorities to open and own their own businesses.

During her career, she worked tirelessly to stand up for the underprivileged; making sure that the elderly were able to live comfortably, that minorities were accurately counted in the Census, and that disaster stricken areas had adequate funding.

I am honored to join my distinguished colleagues to pay tribute to the great work and achievements of Congresswoman Meek. She is, and always will be a shining example of how we, as Members of Congress, should conduct ourselves in public office.

PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, today, we expect that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas will apply for member status before the United Nations. This unilateral action is likely to complicate U.S. peace efforts. It also rejects the essential principle of solving the conflict through direct negotiations with Israel.

History has taught us that a just and lasting peace must be negotiated. It cannot be imposed from the outside, lest it be built on an unstable and temporary foundation.

The creation of a viable, autonomous and peaceful Palestinian state is essential, not only to address the aspirations of the Palestinian people, but also to ensure Israel's security in the region. A two-state solution is the only answer for sustainable peace, and while the negotiations to achieve that goal have suffered setbacks, that must be the objective.

During a speech on Middle East policy at the U.S. State Department on May 19, 2011, President Obama stated, "For the Palestinians, efforts to delegitimize Israel will end in failure. Symbolic actions to isolate Israel at the United Nations in September won't create an independent state. Palestinian leaders will not achieve peace or prosperity if Hamas insists on a path of terror and rejection. And Palestinians will never realize their independence by denying the right of Israel to exist." I agree with these sentiments.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN
SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention a powerful hearing that the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission—of which I am a co-chair—held on September 22, 2011 to discuss the humanitarian atrocities that are taking place in Sudan, including Darfur.

I submit for the record the moving testimonies of two of the panelists—former member of Congress, the Honorable Thomas H. Andrews, and Ms. Jehanne Henry of Human Rights Watch. I hope that my colleagues will take a moment to read these testimonies and realize that the atrocities mentioned are taking place and continue to take place today.

The United States must not turn a blind eye to this part of the world.

[Human Rights Watch, Sept. 22, 2011]

TESTIMONY TO THE TOM LANTOS HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION REGARDING SUDAN

(By Jehanne Henry)

Good morning, Chairman McGovern, Chairman Wolf and distinguished Members of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. Thank you for inviting me to this important hearing on Sudan, particularly in view of new conflict and human rights abuses occurring in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states as we speak.

I was asked to speak on my recent visit to Southern Kordofan. I will keep my comments brief and ask that our August 30 report on the situation in Southern Kordofan be submitted for the record.

As you are aware, South Sudan seceded from Sudan on July 9, following a January referendum under the terms of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. While these events transpired relatively smoothly, new conflicts erupted in key areas north of the border, where the reforms envisioned in the peace agreement never occurred.

Weeks after Sudan militarily overtook the disputed border area of Abyei in late May, in violation of the CPA, fighting between government and SPLA forces broke out in neighboring Southern Kordofan, home to large ethnic Nuba populations with longstanding ties to the SPLM.

The fighting broke out amid growing tensions over disputed state elections, in which Ahmed Haroun—who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur—claimed a narrow victory for governor. The two parties also disagreed over the terms of troop withdrawals under the security arrangements in the CPA.

According to witnesses we interviewed and other sources, government forces shelled civilian areas, shot people in the streets and carried out house-to-house searches and arrests based on lists of names of known SPLM supporters in the first weeks of fighting. Many people I interviewed saw dead bodies and evidence of looting and burning as they escaped the town.

The witness accounts are consistent with many of the findings in an August 15 report by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which documents unlawful killings and attacks on civilians and other serious human rights violations that could amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In late August, I visited Southern Kordofan. Although government restrictions prevented us from visiting Kadugli itself and other government-controlled areas, we visited many towns and villages deep in the Nuba Mountains, where hundreds of thousands of people have taken refuge from fighting and ongoing indiscriminate bombing by the Sudanese government.

While I was there, I saw government planes circling overhead on a near-daily basis, sometimes multiple times per day. I also saw three bombs falling out of an aircraft, and heard them explode a few kilometers away. We investigated 13 air separate strikes in Kauda, Delami, and Kurchi areas—a small fraction of the total number of air strikes in Nuba Mountains—in which bomb fragments brutally killed at least 26 people, including women and children, and injured 45 others, maiming many for life.

According to those we interviewed, there were no military targets in areas where bombs fell. None of the incidents we investigated occurred close to front lines or in areas of active combat. The type of munitions used and the manner in which they were delivered—unguided, dropped from high altitudes—are further evidence that the bombings were indiscriminate and therefore unlawful.

The bombing is ongoing, and has a devastating impact on the Nuba population. People forced out of their homes now live in harsh conditions under boulders, in caves, on mountaintops, under trees, and in the bush far from towns where they fear being struck by bombs. They lacked sufficient food, medicine, and shelter from the rains—many are now eating berries and leaves, and their children are suffering from diarrhea and malaria. Many we met were separated from

family members living in government controlled areas.

Humanitarian groups estimate that more than 200,000 people have been displaced, either by the outbreak of fighting in early June, by ongoing fighting along several front lines, and by the ongoing bombing campaign. The number may be higher, as heavy rains and lack of fuel for vehicles and security concerns restricted access to many SPLM-North-controlled areas.

Yet the Sudanese government has blocked humanitarian assistance to opposition areas as well as many government-held areas. On August 20, aid groups tried to carry out an assessment but were allowed only to Kadugli town. On August 23, President Al-Bashir publicly stated that no international groups would be allowed in. Indeed, Sudan has done everything possible to ensure there are no "eyes and ears" on the ground. It has prevented journalists, researchers, diplomats and UN staff from visiting the area, and forced the UN peacekeepers to leave.

In recent weeks, this conflict has spread to neighboring Blue Nile state and the government has clamped down on SPLM-North across the country, arresting more than 100 suspected supporters, banning political parties, and restricting media coverage of the conflicts. We have credible reports that the government is bombing civilian areas in Blue Nile also. Tens of thousands of people fled their homes.

Sudan faces many political challenges: growing dissent from marginalized populations in its peripheries; active conflicts in two border states and in Darfur, for eight years running; and it has lost one-third of its territory and faces serious economic challenges. Unfortunately, its leaders have chosen to respond to these challenges through repression and armed conflict rather than by upholding rights, opening political space, pursuing democratic reforms.

The United States has shown leadership. Ambassador Rice condemned the violence early on and requested UN reporting on human rights violations. The state department has also condemned the continued aerial bombing. This continued leadership is critical.

The United Nations Security Council and the Africa Union have yet to even condemn the violations, despite the evidence of indiscriminate bombing and despite the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights warning that war crimes and crimes against humanity may have occurred in Southern Kordofan.

We urge the US to press for: a strong condemnation of the ongoing violations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile; an international monitoring presence, with a requirement for continued human rights monitoring; and a full and independent investigation into violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Finally, the US needs to remain steadfast in making no concessions to Sudan given these ongoing and serious violations.

Thank you.

[From United to End Genocide, Sept. 22, 2011]
TESTIMONY OF THE HON. THOMAS H. ANDREWS—"SUDAN: THE ONGOING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SOUTH KORDOFAN AND CONTINUING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN DARFUR"

Thank you Chairman Wolf, Chairman McGovern and members of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission for holding this hearing. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today on the escalation of attacks against civilians in Sudan. So many members of this Commission have been long-time champions of peace and ac-

countability in Sudan. Your leadership on Sudan is critical.

I was in the region a little over two months ago visiting Rwanda, Kenya and South Sudan, and in Juba just weeks after violence broke out in South Kordofan. Everywhere I went I heard story after story of the horror that continues to be inflicted. Two refugees from Darfur told me about their harrowing experience of being awakened at dawn by the sound of hooves and gunfire as the Janjaweed raided their village. They fled to South Kordofan's Nuba Mountains and described how the people there welcomed them. They expressed their alarm and horror that the same regime that had forced them to flee their homes in Darfur was now attacking the very people who provided them refuge.

The common denominator in the devastating attacks on civilians in both Darfur and South Kordofan is Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir. Let me be clear—Bashir is a genocidal monster who is already wanted by the International Criminal Court for directing atrocities in Darfur. Since Bashir came to power in a military coup in 1989 he has murdered, starved and destroyed the lives of millions of innocent civilians in South Sudan, Abyei, Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan.

I have provided additional details on the violence being perpetrated across Sudan by Bashir's forces in my written testimony. But my focus today is on what is happening now in South Kordofan and the stories that were told to me by the people I met.

I spoke to several people displaced from South Kordofan's Nuba Mountains when I was in Juba in early July. The numbers of displaced have only increased since then. Two priests who had just arrived after a narrow escape told me that the Sudanese Armed Forces and allied militias had gone door to door, targeting people based on their religion and the color of their skin. They spoke of churches being burned and looted. One church was hit by a bomb as Antanov planes, the same used to terrorize the people of Darfur, launched indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas. That was in July. The attacks continue.

But it doesn't stop there: Bashir has also refused to let in desperately needed food, water, medicine and fuel. International aid NGOs have been tossed out. One of the displaced priests I met with had heard just that morning from a colleague still in the Nuba Mountains that food stocks were running low, trade routes were blocked, and no new aid was being allowed in. He told me that at least one million innocent people are at risk in South Kordofan.

This year alone, more than half a million people have been displaced by fighting throughout Sudan. United Nations reports indicate the likelihood of ethnic cleansing in Abyei, and war crimes and crimes against humanity in South Kordofan. We suspect similar atrocities have occurred in Blue Nile.

Recent violence directed by Bashir makes it very clear, when left unchecked this genocidal monster will simply continue to do what he has always done: commit unspeakable atrocities.

So what can the United States do? Past experience demonstrates that the Bashir regime only responds to consequences. Unfortunately, the Obama Administration is failing in the face of these ongoing atrocities. Recent statements by the State Department do not place appropriate emphasis on the Government of Sudan as the party overwhelmingly responsible for violence against civilians. Even more importantly, action from the Administration is severely lacking. Accountability is not being demanded. Civilians are not being protected. Bashir is being

allowed to commit atrocities with impunity. Again. Unless this policy course is corrected, many more civilians will lose their lives.

In my view the Obama Administration needs to do three things:

First, expand sanctions on individuals responsible for atrocities throughout Sudan. Current individual sanctions for atrocities are specific only to Darfur. Anyone who commits heinous crimes must be held accountable regardless of where in Sudan these atrocities take place.

Second, make saving lives in Sudan a high priority in our dealings with other nations—particularly those that can exert the most leverage on Bashir. We need increased and coordinated sanctions by the international community starting with our European allies. Maybe even more importantly, the United States must work to move China in a new direction. The Chinese have a great deal of leverage with the Government of Sudan. Their significant monetary investment makes it in their interest to have a peaceful and stable region. But their actions belie their interest and denigrate values that we have a moral obligation to defend and advance. The red carpet that the Chinese government literally unfolded for Bashir just months ago in Beijing was an outrage. We need to hear that outrage spoken loudly and clearly by our leaders.

Finally, weapons must be stopped from flowing into Sudan and innocent people must be protected. The U.S. must spend political capital to pass a United Nations Security Council resolution that expands individual sanctions for perpetrators, expands the existing arms embargo on Darfur to incorporate all of Sudan, expands the mandate of the International Criminal Court to cover the entire country, demands unfettered humanitarian access, and authorizes an international civilian protection force with the resources and mandate to accomplish its mission.

Congress also has an important role to play. First, the American people need to know the truth about Omar al-Bashir and his atrocities. This hearing is an important step in that direction and, again, I commend you for your leadership. American citizens have shown they care about the people of Sudan, but many are unaware of what is happening there now. Your help is needed to raise the alarm. Congress should also consider and pass legislation that would mandate increased United States sanctions and push the Administration to advance the policies I've laid out here today.

I know this is not as easy as it may sound. I know about all the distractions that Members of Congress face. I was serving in the House during the Rwandan genocide. I visited the graves of hundreds of thousands of victims when I visited Rwanda in July and asked myself—"Where was I?" Why did we do nothing to prevent or stop this horror?" Well, in retrospect, the political climate here in the U.S. was intense in 1994. There were fresh memories of Mogadishu, Somalia and "Black Hawk Down". There was the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The economy was struggling and a heated election was looming. When you think about it, the political climate today is not at all dissimilar. But, the bottom line then is the bottom line now: We cannot stand quietly aside while genocidal monsters inflict unspeakable crimes against untold numbers of innocent people. The cost of doing nothing is too great. We must not look back years from now on this moment and think: "If only we had done something."

We must have the courage to act now.

Thank you again for your time and for this opportunity. I look forward to answering your questions.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HIS EXCELLENCY YASHAR ALIYEV, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the departing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States of America, His Excellency Yashar Aliyev. Mr. Aliyev has served in this post since December 2006, but his diplomatic career is long and distinguished.

Ambassador Aliyev began his diplomatic career at the United Nations in 1992, serving as political affairs counselor and chargé d'affaires of Azerbaijan's Permanent Mission. He was also Azerbaijan's delegate to the First and Fourth Committees at the forty-seventh through fifty-sixth sessions of the United Nations General Assembly. Having joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan in 1989, Ambassador Aliyev held posts as political officer, first secretary and deputy director in the Ministry's Department of Information and Political Analysis, as well as director of the Department of International Organizations. From 2002–2006, he served as Azerbaijan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

It has been my honor and privilege to work with Ambassador Aliyev on issues important to Azerbaijan. I have come to regard him as a determined and passionate advocate for his country and the strategic partnership between Azerbaijan and the United States. I praise the Ambassador for his tremendous efforts and contributions to raise awareness among Members of Congress and Administration officials of the important role Azerbaijan is playing in the security of the United States.

I want to offer Ambassador Aliyev my appreciation for his 5 years of service in Washington, D.C. As Ambassador Aliyev moves on to new responsibilities and assignments, I extend to him my highest regards and best wishes. Mister Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me today in wishing His Excellency Yashar Aliyev the best and congratulating him on his impressive service.

THE BIGGEST LITTLE LEAGUERS

HON. TIM SCOTT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in the heart of Charleston, South Carolina, lies Cannon Street; it's a modest street spanning just a few city blocks. However, within its history lies the story of what Dr. Creighton Hale, the former CEO of little league baseball, called "the most significant amateur team in baseball history."

In 1955, the area surrounding this street was one of economic blight and social unease. In an effort to keep kids out of trouble and teach skills that only team sports can pro-

vide, the local YMCA organized four little league teams for the neighborhood kids. The Cannon Street YMCA All-Stars would advance to the Charleston City Little League playoff games, but would never be given the opportunity to earn a spot in the Little League World Series. It was not because they were unworthy players or because they could not afford to go. The color of their skin stifled the dreams of these twelve-year-old boys.

The Charleston playoff games were boycotted in 1955 to preserve racial segregation. Because teams again refused to play against them, the Cannon Street All-Stars advanced past the state and regional playoffs. The National Little League invited the All-Stars to the Little League World Series as special guests; they could not compete for the title because technically they hadn't played their way to the championships. They returned to Charleston, dismayed and disappointed.

As children, they embodied the very characteristics that organized sports aim to impart—teamwork, courage and respect. As adults they have worked in productive and valuable careers such as architecture, law enforcement and education. As they have grown older, they are now volunteers in their communities—giving back, yet again. While they never had the opportunity to compete, their story has demonstrated where we have come from as a nation.

Last month members of my staff had the opportunity to meet several of the original Cannon Street Little Leaguers who traveled to Washington, D.C. to be recognized at Nationals Stadium before the Nationals-Phillies game. Their story remains powerful more than 65 years later, and I know my staff will never forget having the opportunity to meet them.

Today, the neighborhood that encompasses Cannon Street has developed into an integral part of the Charleston education and science community. It is home to a number of colleges and universities and a world-class research hospital. The boys of the Cannon Street Little League Team are men who through their careers and service to the community have become assets to their neighborhoods. In spite of the adversity they encountered and the challenges they confronted, these young people illustrated to the world the absurdity of segregation and the hatred inherent in racism.

In the fifty-five years since they were excluded from competing to earn a spot at the Little League World Series in their own right, America has matured. I'd like to believe that a handful of twelve-year-olds contributed to our maturity.

It is with great admiration that I share their story and my respect for these men with you, my colleagues.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY MONTH

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Childhood Obesity Month. Childhood obesity is one of the biggest health challenges facing our country; driving up medical costs, hurting our economy, and shortening lives. For the first time

our children and grandchildren are projected to live shorter and less healthy lives than we do. Medical costs associated with obesity total more than a billion dollars a year. The price tag will continue to increase as our youth face more and more diseases normally only found in adult populations, like hypertension, type 2 diabetes, and high cholesterol. This growing epidemic is driven by environmental, economic, and social factors that make fats, salt and sugars cheaper and more available than fresh fruits and vegetables and limit the opportunities for sports and recreation.

The good news is that prevention works and by working together we can buck this trend. Together, we can improve access to healthier foods, increase availability of active transportation for our youth, and ensure our communities are walkable.

We face an uphill battle—according to Washington State's Healthy Youth Survey, 24% of 10th graders are either obese or overweight, and less than half of children surveyed were getting enough fruits and vegetables. Yet already, many leaders and communities in Washington are stepping to the plate and are committed to taking on this fight by making healthy, important changes. From Moses Lake to Mount Vernon, communities are successfully incorporating policies to increase access to healthy foods and physical activity. Seattle's Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, located in a community where nearly 40% of children are overweight or obese, is on the front lines of combating childhood obesity. The clinic has successfully integrated childhood obesity prevention and treatment program into their primary care to address the challenge.

Childhood obesity prevention should be a top priority. In Congress, I worked to pass the Affordable Care Act because I believe an increased focus on preventative medicine and increasing access to care will improve our nation's health. I also support the Fit Kids Act, to ensure that children get enough physical activity. We know what we need to do to reverse this alarming national epidemic. It will not be easy, but together we can fight the childhood obesity trend.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2401, The TRAIN Act. This bill would continue the subordination of public health and common sense to the narrow, temporary and misguided pursuit of profits for the few. It endeavors to kill essential environmental and public health protections by imposing the exact kind of redtape my colleagues so emphatically claim to oppose.

The TRAIN Act slams the brakes on essential public health initiatives, first by burdening