

Turkey established two civilian-led Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Wardak and Jawzjan, and opened a branch of the Turkish International Cooperation Agency in Kabul, from which it runs a number of humanitarian assistance and economic development projects.

Turkey stations over 1,700 U.S. military personnel under the U.S.-Turkey Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement. Incirlik Air Base, which houses about 1,500 U.S. military personnel, is a transit point for 68% of air logistical support for Iraq and Afghanistan. Each year, an average of 2,000 American C-17 aircraft and an average of 1,460 KC-135 refueling tankers fly through the Turkish air base. Turkey's support is not limited to access of its air bases; its Mersin port on the Mediterranean is part of the U.S.'s supply network to Afghanistan.

In a time when several Muslim majority countries are undergoing upheaval, Turkey provides an ideal model to its neighbors. It is a secular, modern, Muslim majority state that is a significant NATO ally. In its domestic affairs, Turkey is again a model for its neighbors. According to the State Department's 13th Annual Report on Religious Freedom,

During the reporting period, the [Turkish] government took steps to improve religious freedom. Notably the government permitted religious services to be held annually in historic Christian sites that had been turned into state museums after decades of disuse.

As a friend of Turkey, the United States ought to continue to recognize Turkey's initiatives on religious freedom and encourage Turkey to continue its progress. This is what allies do.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAMPA BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 20th Anniversary of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, which has been a key factor in restoring and improving the ecological health of Tampa Bay. Designated by Congress as an 'estuary of national significance' under the National Estuary Program in 1990, the Tampa Bay Estuary program is one of only 28 programs in the United States and four in Florida.

Unique environments that are found where rivers meet the sea, estuaries are vital components to the world's ecosystem. Estuaries improve water quality by filtering pollutants, act as buffers to protect shorelines from erosion and flooding, serve as nursery grounds for the majority of commercial and recreational fish and shellfish consumed by Americans, and provide essential food and habitat for birds, fish and other wildlife.

Created by Congress in 1987, the National Estuary Program works to identify and restore nationally significant estuaries that are threatened by pollution. Through an amendment to an appropriations bill, we worked quickly to ensure that Tampa Bay was included as one of the first estuary programs, recognizing its importance to the ecosystem of Florida and

Pinellas County. Since then, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program has operated as a partnership of thousands of volunteers, elected officials, resource managers and commercial and recreational resource users who work together to restore and improve the ecological health of Tampa Bay.

The program has made significant progress in improving Tampa Bay during the last two decades. Important achievements over the years include the recovery of more than 6,000 acres of life-sustaining sea grasses, the restoration of more than 5,000 acres of coastal habitats, and improved water quality and clarity to levels not seen since the 1950s. The Tampa Bay National Estuary Program has done a tremendous job in cleaning, preserving and maintaining the health and vitality of Tampa Bay and today this estuary is not only a precious natural habitat for many species of fish, birds and flora, but also a beautiful playground for swimmers, boaters and general admirers.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to have been a partner in this incredible successful partnership that has made an invaluable contribution to restoring this unique Florida ecosystem. The hard work and dedication of the staff and their community partners ensures that the Tampa Bay Estuary Program will continue to build upon their success in the future. Please join me in congratulating all those who have been a part of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program for a job well done over these past 20 years.

CONGRATULATING NATIONAL GUARD ON 375TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the National Guard in honor of its 375th anniversary and a particular thank you to the men and women that serve in the New Hampshire National Guard. The origins of the New Hampshire National Guard can be traced back to 1623 with a proud tradition of protecting the lives and property of Granite State residents. New Hampshire Guardsmen have always answered the call to serve our great state and nation and since the terrorist attacks of September 11th, more than 2,000 New Hampshire Guardsmen have served overseas as part of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn. Collectively, the New Hampshire Guardsmen have received the highest honors our military bestows including the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medals, Combat Infantry and Combat Action Badges and Purple Hearts.

New Hampshire's citizen soldiers and airmen have served domestically as well by mobilizing under Operation Noble Eagle, aiding the victims of severe weather, and rescuing lost hikers in the White Mountains. I am proud to represent the brave men and women of New Hampshire's National Guard and look forward to honoring them for their service in the years to come.

IRAN, NORTH KOREA, AND SYRIA NONPROLIFERATION REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, North Korea has nuclear weapons. Iran is developing nuclear weapons. Al-Qaeda wants to acquire nuclear weapons. The threat we face is very, very real.

Sanctions are important to help prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, but they are not enough. America must lead by example.

The U.S. recently signed the New START treaty, requiring reductions to our nuclear arsenal. Yet, we still plan to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on new nuclear weapons and related programs over the next decade.

Why do we allow this wasteful spending to continue? Because some Republicans in this Chamber treat the nuclear weapons budget as a sacred cow, never to be questioned or scrutinized. This is ridiculous.

Wasteful nuclear weapons spending actually harms national security. It sends the message to Iran, North Korea, and Syria that while we don't want you to have these weapons, we are not willing to make cuts ourselves. This is the wrong message to send.

You cannot argue temperance from a barstool.

The central deal in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was that the non-weapons states agreed to forgo the right to get the bomb. The weapons states in return, agreed to negotiate measures leading to disarmament.

That should be our goal, and we can take an important step in this direction by reducing unnecessary nuclear weapons spending.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this statement is submitted as an extension of my remarks on the House floor, December 13, 2011, discussing H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2011:

I thank my friend from California, the Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, for discussing Section 601(c) of the Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2011 with me.

Despite his helpful words, I still have strong reservations about language used in this legislation.

Specifically with the language in Section 601(c) of this bill, which states that:

"No person employed with the United States Government may contact in an official or unofficial capacity any person that is an agent, instrumentality, or official of, is affiliated with, or is serving as a representative of the Government of Iran; and presents a threat to the United States or is affiliated with terrorist organizations."

As most of my colleagues would agree, the whole of the Iranian government is itself a “threat” to the United States. Further, Iran actively supports terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah, both listed as Foreign Terrorist Organizations by the State Department. It would be strange logic indeed to disassociate any of the officials who work for Iran from a “threat” to the U.S. It would appear impossible to comply with this language.

Given the inability to comply with this language, this leaves the waiver provision by the President as the only means to initiating contact with Iran. Diplomacy tied to a 15-day countdown is ineffective at best and extremely dangerous at worst. Luckily, this restriction on the Executive Power to conduct the country's foreign policy is likely unconstitutional. This waiver is, on its face, questionable, unnecessarily ties the hands of our President, and is poor policy.

Congress would be better served in these challenging times to do its own job, rather than making it harder for the President to do his.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON CHINA HEARING ON “CHINA’S CENSORSHIP OF THE INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA: THE HUMAN TOLL AND TRADE IMPACT”

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, I would ask that the following opening statements be submitted to the RECORD for the November 17, 2001 hearing on “China’s Censorship of the Internet and Social Media: The Human Toll and Trade Impact.”

CHINA’S CENSORSHIP OF THE INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA: THE HUMAN TOLL AND TRADE IMPACT

STATEMENT OF HON. CHRISTOPHER SMITH, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW JERSEY, CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA

The Commission will come to order. I want to welcome all of our distinguished witnesses to this very important hearing. We really appreciate the attendance of all of our panelists and guests. It’s a pleasure to welcome everyone to this important roundtable on “China’s Censorship of the Internet and Social Media: The Human Toll and Trade Impact.” As recent events have shown, the issue of Internet censorship has only grown in terms of importance and magnitude, and I thank the Congressional-Executive Commission on China staff for organizing a hearing on this pressing issue, and for the tremendous scholarly work they have done not only in presenting our annual report, which is filled with facts and information that is actionable, but for the ongoing work that they do to monitor the gross abuses of human rights in China.

As the Congressional-Executive Commission on China’s 2011 annual human rights report demonstrates, China’s leadership has grown more assertive in its violation of rights, disregarding the very laws and international standards that they claim to uphold, while tightening their grip on Chinese society. As Chinese citizens have increas-

ingly called for freedoms and reforms, China has only strengthened its controls over many areas of society—particularly over the Internet.

While China has witnessed a boom in the popularity of social media and Internet sites, Chinese citizens that access online sites today remain under the watchful eye of the State. By some accounts, China has imprisoned more Internet activists than any other country in the world, and its Internet environment ranks among the most restrictive globally. Chinese citizens are unable to voice a range of criticism that Americans undoubtedly take for granted each day: Chinese citizens that tweet about local corruption may face the threat of abuse or harassment. Citizens that express dissatisfaction over tainted food supplies that injure children—the most vulnerable population of our society—may come to hear a knock at the door. And, citizens that voice the human desire for democracy and rights protections we value so dearly may disappear into the official custody of the State, where they face torture and incarceration.

For Chinese citizens, the line that can’t be crossed is unclear. While mentions of the 1989 Tiananmen protests are surely prohibited, China’s censorship remains at the whimsy of governmental agencies that seek to limit what they perceive to be any destabilizing commentary. In China, the Internet provides no transparency—and citizens must weigh their choices each time they click to send an email or press a button or post personal views online. Who can forget Shi Tao, who for merely posting information about what he is not allowed to do, with regards to Tiananmen Square, garnered a ten year prison sentence when Yahoo opened up their personally identifiable information and gave it to the Chinese secret police that lead to his conviction. There are no lists of banned words. There are no registers of prohibited topics. In China, there is no transparency. There are only consequences, and dire ones at that.

Today, we welcome two panels that will address China’s Internet censorship from two perspectives. The witnesses will not only provide personal accounts of how China’s censorship affects individuals and families, but also detail how China’s actions hinder the rights of U.S. businesses that seek to compete fairly in China. These panels will expose China’s bold disregard for its own laws and its international obligations, specifically in terms of its controls on internet activity and expression.

In the first panel today, we will hear personal accounts of the consequences Chinese citizens face in seeking to express their fundamental rights of expression. We will hear from a son and a pastor that have seen firsthand the anxious and unforgiving hand of China’s Internet police. We will hear how the simplest calls for freedom and reforms can lead to the separation of loved ones and partition of families.

In the second panel, we will hear how China’s Internet restrictions and controls not only hurt its citizens, but also hurt countries seeking to better China through international trade and cooperation. On a commercial level, China similarly lacks the kind of transparency and fairness that we expect in global trading partners. China has not only failed to comply with its WTO commitments, it has exploited our expectations to create an unlevel playing field, hurting the competitiveness of U.S. businesses and workers alike.

We recognize that the Internet and social media can and should be used to provide people with greater access to honest information and to open up commercial opportunities for businesses operating in global mar-

kets. We know that the promise of information technology can not be achieved when it is used by repressive governments to find, capture, convict and so often torture ordinary citizens for voicing concerns publicly. Information technology can not be advanced when it involves the systemic exclusion of commercial competitors and rampant disregard for transparency and intellectual property.

China is one of the most repressive and restrictive countries when it comes to the control of the Internet and the impact goes far beyond the commercial losses for U.S. companies that want to participate in that market. There are serious human rights implications and we have seen the damage inflicted countless times through the arrest of bloggers and prodemocracy activists who have used the Internet to communicate with colleagues or disseminate views and then have been arrested. What makes this situation even worse is that sometimes it is U.S. companies, and my colleagues will recall I held the first of a series of hearings where we had Microsoft, Yahoo, Cisco, and Google before our committee—it was my subcommittee on human rights—held up their hands and promised to tell the whole truth and nothing but, and then said they couldn’t tell us what they were censoring and would not tell us how they were being complicit. Harry Wu, who is here, and has been a leader on this issue, pointed out that Cisco has so enabled the secret police to track down people using police net, and that the use of cyber police, ubiquitous throughout all of China, in order to capture the best, bravest, and smartest in China, who will bring that country to democracy if only allowed to do so.

NOVEMBER 17, 2011 TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA HEARING ON “CHINA’S CENSORSHIP OF THE INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA: THE HUMAN TOLL AND TRADE IMPACT”

GILBERT B. KAPLAN, PARTNER, KING & SPALDING, PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT U.S. TRADE LAWS—INTRODUCTION

China’s censorship of the Internet and its restrictions on the free flow of information have a very significant impact on U.S. economic and trade interests. China continues to impose debilitating burdens on foreign Internet service providers through its censorship regime, its blocking of foreign websites, and its “Great Firewall” infrastructure, which inhibit or prevent all together U.S. companies’ ability to do business in China, and their ability to compete with Chinese domestic companies. China’s Internet service providers have capitalized on this discriminatory treatment of U.S. companies and have consequently experienced great success. Earlier this year, for example, RenRen (known as “China’s Facebook”) filed for a U.S. public offering, symbolizing its success to date and its plans for expansion. Meanwhile, Facebook is blocked in China. These measures have been ongoing for years, and have had an overwhelming adverse impact on market share for U.S. companies perhaps to the extent that such market share can never be recovered.

China’s blocking and filtering measures, and the fog of uncertainty surrounding what China’s censors will and will not permit, violate numerous of China’s international obligations, including provisions of the WTO General Agreement on Trade and Services (“GATS”) and China’s WTO Protocol of Accession.

The negative impact of these violations on America’s premier Internet companies is profound. There are several corporate victims of China’s exclusionary practices. Although there is public information identifying several large companies that have been