

take to the streets to protect the Egyptian army from "the Coptic protesters." The call was answered by Islamists who came in to join the violence against the Christians. In what is now known as the "Maspero Massacre," over 25 people were killed and 300 injured. This marked the first time that the military—not the state police or radical Islamist groups—used violence against Christians.

Since the revolution, 5 churches have been attacked. The most disturbing part of these attacks is that they all happened in broad daylight, with the military standing by and watching. Those perpetrators who are clearly identified by video footage of the attacks have still not been arrested.

Former state security officials who tortured Christians have not been brought to justice either. One woman has burn marks on her arms and on her inner thighs from state security officials that wanted to know who the priest was who baptized her and what church she was baptized in. She wouldn't give his name, so the torture went on for three days. She knows the names of her abusers because they made sure they introduced themselves before they started the torture. But have they been tried? No.

Another man was tortured by state security because he converted from Islam to Christianity. He described how they removed his clothing, tied him down and put a metal chair between his legs and tied wires around his genitals and to his toes and then turned on the electricity. He knows the exact location of where he was tortured and the name of the person who tortured him, but of course he has not been brought to justice.

There is one more disturbing story to tell and that has to do with the kidnapping, rape, and forced marriage of Christian women to Muslim men. In testimony before the Helsinki Commission, it was described like this.

Christian girls are lured to an isolated place, drugged and kidnapped. Often, they are raped. They are then forced to marry their rapist and forbidden from returning to their families. Here is one story from Christian Solidarity International and the Coptic Foundation for Human Rights' report.

R. was abducted October 11, 2005. She had lived in the same neighborhood all of her life and knew all the neighbors. She was especially good friends with the daughter of a neighboring Muslim family, Sarah. They practically grew up together and were like sisters, inseparable. Sarah had an admirer named Wali, a classmate, who called her all the time. Wali began to call for Sarah on R.'s phone. His calls became so frequent that finally R. told Wali to stop calling her. He became very angry. "You will regret telling me not to call you," he said in a threatening voice. She stopped seeing Sara after that. This happened in 2004.

After a year and a half, she received a call from Wali's telephone number. The voice was different and polite. A young man introduced himself as Amir, and said that he was an admirer of hers. He also knew everything about her. He wanted to meet her in a church. When R. said that she did not usually meet people she did not know, he replied that he knew she was on her way to church and that he would wait for her outside. There, he introduced himself and asked R.'s mother for her hand in marriage. The mother replied that it was not so simple. Amir went to their flat the next day

to speak to R.'s father. Amir told R.'s father that he wanted nothing from the family except for their daughter's hand in marriage. He had seen her in the street and instantly felt that she would be a perfect wife for him.

R.'s father did not want them to date until he met the boy's parents. Amir kept giving excuses: his mother was sick and his father was out of town. Finally, he told them that his father died. R.'s parents wanted to go as a family to pay respects but Amir said that this would not be necessary since his home was far away.

Later that week, Amir's sister contacted them and came to meet R. R. was engaged and ready to be married. She said she was not deeply in love, but that Amir seemed like a decent person. Amir's sister Christina asked R to go shopping with them. R.'s mother initially opposed the idea but finally relented when the girls told her they would not go far.

Christina offered to find a taxi and returned saying she had found one quickly. In retrospect, R. says that this was odd since they lived in a neighborhood in which it was usually difficult to find taxis.

Christina gave directions to the taxi driver to a close-by shopping area. It was a warm day and Christina offered R. some juice. R. declined but Christina insisted and drank it, remembering that the bottle was already opened. By the time she finished her juice, she felt quite dizzy. The taxi took a detour onto a dirt road and stopped in an isolated area. The driver said that there was something wrong with the car and he needed to check. Christina got out as well.

A van pulled up full of people and some came over to get her. Amir was one of them.

R. could not talk, even though she wanted to ask many questions. They began to beat her and she fainted.

When she woke up, she was in bed surrounded by many different strange men. "Amir" told her that he was in reality Wali, whom she had dismissed so abruptly in the past and he reminded her of his threat. He then announced that she was going to be married to a Muslim man.

She wanted to get out of the room but a woman blocked the door. She was locked in the room without her purse or her phone. This was the period of Ramadan, when under Islamic Law it is not possible to marry. Amir insisted on a conversion immediately. She was taken to the religious authorities where five other girls were waiting. All of them were Christians preparing to marry Muslims.

The papers were signed and the conversion was complete. R. was given the Muslim name of Fatimah. She refused to say the proclamation of faith and was beaten.

She was married to another man she had never met, Mahmoud. When she refused to have sex with him, the family held her down while he raped her. She began bleeding profusely.

She stayed with him for 9 months and was beaten every day. The Coptic cross which was tattooed on her wrist was burned off with acid and she still has scars. R. was forced to cover herself completely when she left her home and was called Fatima by the family members. Her veil was black.

R. pretended to observe the Muslim rituals and prayers, but it was just a pretense for her. As a result of the rape and constant beatings, she became physically ill. When her husband

went to work, he locked her in the house, alone, without a phone. She was never allowed to leave by herself. On the day of her escape, she told her in-laws that she was going to pray in the mosque but instead she called her mother and said she wanted to come home. She took a taxi to her parents' house. She is unable to have children as a result of the rape.

The practice is horrible and nothing is done about it. One parish father testifies that he has had over 50 cases of forced conversions of Coptic women in one year alone in his congregation. Another bishop says he has 45 women who were abducted and are now living in his safe house.

The Egyptian government has so far failed to protect Coptic Orthodox Christians. All we're talking about here is allowing people to practice what they believe. The government should not be inciting violence against them or running them over with tanks. It should be going after those that burn their places of worship or kidnap, rape, and torture them. Christians need to feel like the government has their back, not that it is out to get them. There cannot be unity and reconciliation until people feel like there is some sort of equality in society. There has to be consequences for persecution. This Administration needs to make the protecting of religious minorities a major point whenever it talks to its counterparts in the Egyptian government. They need to be clear that there will be consequences for them too if nothing changes. Our aid is not endless and it is not free. We should not support tyrants and dictators who oppress their own people. Egypt must uphold fundamental human rights, including protecting Christians.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CRAIG J. ROLISH AND THOMAS W. HABERKORN

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize two individuals, Craig J. Rolish and Thomas W. Haberkorn, who have devoted themselves to ensuring prosperous futures for the military veterans of southwestern Pennsylvania. Back in 1993, Mr. Rolish and Mr. Haberkorn helped to establish Veterans' Community Initiatives (VCI), an organization dedicated to finding employment for the men and women who have returned home from serving our nation in uniform. Since then, VCI has served nearly 5,500 clients and made approximately 4,000 job placements. The willingness of these men to devote the last 18 years of their lives to serving the needs of veterans is a testament to their appreciation for causes greater than themselves.

Mr. Rolish is currently the Vice President/Treasurer of VCI. Having served in the Air Force in Vietnam, Mr. Rolish was forced to personally confront the challenges a returning soldier must face in trying to reintegrate into society. While he could have easily devoted the years following his service to ensuring his own wellbeing, he instead chose to continue to work to improve the communities of southwestern Pennsylvania. Upon returning to

Johnstown, Mr. Rolish put his financial expertise to good use, collaborating with Fannie Mae to help a number of individuals and small businesses rebuild after the devastating Johnstown flood of 1977. He also served as the CEO of the non-profit NORCAM, helping that organization to become one of the pre-eminent drivers of economic development in the region.

For Mr. Rolish, public service is a passion. He has served on a number of volunteer boards-and commissions, including the Highland Sewer & Water Authority and the Johnstown Area Regional Industry, and has been an effective fundraiser for causes close to my own heart. He is personally responsible for accumulating over \$100,000 for St. Jude's Hospital and over \$180,000 in private donations for a memorial statue of my mentor in public service, the late Congressman John P. Murtha. In recognition of his beneficence and selflessness, Mr. Rolish was honored with the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor award in 2002. This honor is given by the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation to outstanding individuals who embody the spirit of giving.

Thomas Haberkorn, VCI's Vice President/Secretary, has also devoted his life to serving the people, businesses and non-profits of southwestern Pennsylvania. Like Mr. Rolish, Mr. Haberkorn served his country in the Air Force in Vietnam and continued to serve the public welfare upon returning home. He has served as an East Hills Kiwanis Board member, as well as a member of Johnstown Professional Networking. He has also been active with a number of charities, including the Special Olympics and the Salvation Army.

Mr. Haberkorn's true legacy is his commitment to veterans. He began providing support to those who have served us in combat long before helping to establish VCI. Mr. Haberkorn has been very active with Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) for many years. He is the founder and current president of VVA Chapter 364, as well as the District Director of the VVA Pennsylvania State Council. In addition to working with VVA, Mr. Haberkorn has also done a great deal to support the local VFW, American Legion, and Conemaugh Valley Veterans. Like Mr. Rolish, he has been honored with the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor award in recognition of his outstanding public service efforts over many years.

Mr. Speaker, in all of the time I have spent engaging with local community leaders, I have rarely, if ever, encountered two men with stronger character than Craig J. Rolish and Thomas W. Haberkorn. Their fortitude and unwavering commitment to public service—and in particular to serving the needs of combat veterans—deserve our gratitude and appreciation. I am proud to represent them in Congress.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I voted for the final version of the 2012 National Defense Au-

thorization Act because passage of this bill is important to the servicemen and women of our country and their families. The bill provides an average 1.6 percent pay increase for our troops and ensures that TRICARE premiums for military retirees will not be higher than the rate of increase in the cost-of-living.

In addition, the bill authorizes \$225 million in construction projects for Hawaii, including projects in Fort Shafter, Schofield Barracks, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Kaneohe Bay, and Kalaheo on Oahu and Barking Sands on Kauai. These projects will provide jobs and strengthen the economy.

I do have reservations about the detainee provisions included in the bill. Although the provisions have been modified to provide protections for U.S. citizens, this issue deserves further

The bill does reject the broad House language on the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Section 1034), which many feared could be used by the current or a future president as an unlimited authorization to go to war.

The final bill does not include provisions from the House-passed bill that would have discriminated against gay and lesbian service members. It also provides new protections for victims of sexual assault in the military. These are positive changes that improve the bill.

In addition, the bill reauthorizes for six years the Small Business Innovation Research, SBIR, and Small Business Technology Transfer, STIR, programs, which I strongly support. The SBIR program provides grants as a way to increase participation by small companies in federally financed research and development activities. The related STTR program encourages commercial development by small companies of university and federal laboratory research projects.

I introduced bills earlier this year to strengthen these programs by doubling the amounts of the Phase I (initial investigation phase) and Phase II (research and development) grants, which have been static since 1982. Under the reauthorization provided in this bill, the Phase I awards will rise from \$100,000 to \$150,000 and Phase II grants will increase from \$750,000 to \$1 million. The SBIR program has been especially important in Hawaii and has helped to nurture the growth of some of our most innovative companies, such as TREX Enterprises, Oceanit, Archionetics, and Cellular Bioengineering, Inc., to name a few.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because people are suffering. Time's running out for America's long-term job hunters. If Congress fails to act by December 31, nearly 2 million will be cut off in January alone. And without action in 2012, that number will rise to at least 6 million.

The Ways & Means Committee has been collecting stories on Facebook of people who have lost their jobs and Mr. LEVIN has been reading them on the floor. Yesterday SEIU

launched the ExtendUI tweet-a-thon in hopes to make a powerful case to ExtendUI without cuts or preconditions that hurt the 99 percent. I also collected stories on my Facebook page and via Twitter. Here are some of the stories from my constituents in their own words. Republicans, are you listening? Can't you hear the pain and cries of the American people?

Don Wright: "I need a job for a lot of reasons but the most important one is Dignity. When you don't have a job you feel terrible. It is hard to face other people especially your family. You don't feel like a man anymore. You can't get any respect from your wife and if she leaves you nobody wants to go out with a man without a job. So you are staying single and broke and alone. You get depressed and feel hopeless and you are a good man if you fight against envy—envy of others who have jobs and the things that a job brings. Your family loves you but are at the same time ashamed of you and your kids become worried at being asked what their Daddy does. The list goes on all of it bad. A job any job would be better than no job. Keep the jobless in your mind and hearts."

Paula Christianson: "I lost my job over a year ago due to an accident that left me disabled longer than the Family Medical Leave Act allowed. I had worked there for almost 7 years and was voted employee of the month but none of that mattered when they sent me a termination letter to my home. This has all contributed to my depression issues and Generalized Anxiety disorder. All I do is worry how I am going to survive! It consumes me. Please don't take away this help it is my and many others only hope left! I am not looking for a handout just a helping hand to continue to support my family until I can find employment! Again, please help!"

Patricia Dentley: "I took an early termination package in hopes of continuing working until retirement age, but almost 6 years later, I'm still unemployed, and because of how my package was setup, I couldn't claim unemployment during the initial period after working. I was never in anyone's statistics regarding unemployed, with no benefits other than filing for early retirement or not having that. Most of the jobs with the company I was with is now in other countries with whom the American companies are paying less money, less benefits, and reaping a lot from these countries. I do want the other people in these countries to improve their lives, but we also have to live in ours. I don't know if you remember when our country paid farmers not to farm, now, not only are many people in our country unable to purchase the higher cost foods today, but other countries whom they could have helped are also starving, why, because of greed. I hope this helps not only you Representative RANGEL, but a lot of other people you are fighting for."

Jeanne Alvarado: "I was laid off from my position at Coca Cola Enterprises a year and a half ago. This happened two months before I was to be vested in the company. To say the least, I was devastated and depressed however, I picked myself up and immediately started seeking employment. I have applied to hundreds of positions within the five boroughs which include all the beverage companies, nursing homes etc. I have only had the opportunity to interview for five positions. The painful hard fact Congressman is that companies do not want to hire people of my age group.