

to allow the passage of a resolution expressing U.S. objection to the actions of Ukraine's politically driven judicial system that seem to have more to do with politics than justice.

In furtherance of these objectives, I place on record on behalf of the Ukrainian Caucus the official statement of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, which represents over 1 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, equally incensed at what has occurred. From their statement, the Ukrainian Congress states:

They call upon the Government of the United States to take appropriate measures to support democracy and human rights in Ukraine. They urge the United States Government to restrict visas and freeze assets of the current antidemocratic regime and to hold congressional hearings on sanctions and future foreign assistance to the Government of Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me, to join our caucus; to speak out and to act then on behalf of the advance of democracy and justice in post-Soviet Ukraine.

I also wish to address today the U.S. economy. We've heard a lot about the trade agreements that are going to come before us today dealing with so-called "free trade" for South Korea, for Colombia and Panama. I wish to place some information on the record.

I've served in Congress awhile now, and fought against the NAFTA trade model back in the nineties when they said it would create jobs that would result in trade surpluses. Advocates promised we would have all this extraordinary economic growth and new jobs in the United States. Then after NAFTA was passed, we saw the beginning of these hemorrhaging trade deficits with Mexico, with Canada and, indeed, with the world. In 1997 and '98, when the China permanent normal trade relations, which I might add are anything but normal, kicked in, America went into an even greater trade deficit. Each billion dollars of trade deficit represented a loss of thousands upon thousands of lost jobs.

So, as we look at the period that we've been living through over the last 20 to 25 years as these so-called free trade agreements locked down, with every single one, America goes deeper and deeper into trade deficit, which kills the economic growth in our country. Now, today, we're being delivered three more: South Korea, Panama, and Colombia.

When we look back at CAFTA, which was passed in the early 2000s, what happened? Did we get trade balances with those countries? No. We got more U.S. job loss.

Sure, there were a few industries that made out like bandits. Okay, that's fine, I'm glad that some industries can export, and generally, agriculture is able to sell a little bit more, but the overall net is negative. The net is negative. That translates into lost jobs. We've lost over 7 million jobs in

this country because these agreements are not fair trade agreements. They really don't result in trade balances for our country, nor job creation. They yield job losses—coast to coast.

Let's just take a look at what happened with Mexico alone. Back when NAFTA was passed, we had a trade surplus with Mexico. The same people who are arguing for these agreements today said, Don't worry about NAFTA—jobs are going to be even better. We said, No, no. It's not going to be better because there's not a real rule of law. There is no respect for the peasant class in Mexico, and the agricultural adjustment there is going to be horrendous.

In fact, it is at the basis of the exodus of Mexican farmers and peasants into our country. That is what is fueling illegal immigration—the lack of a resolution to what occurred during NAFTA when the agricultural adjustment was not allowed to occur in a humane way in Mexico. What a pity to go to the communities and to see how people are living there, disrupted from their land, and then in our country to see the jobs outsourced from the United States down there or from the United States to almost anywhere—China, et cetera—to the low-wage havens with no rule of law. Every year, the trade deficit with Mexico has grown greater and greater. Remember when we began with NAFTA, we had a trade surplus with Mexico. That has disappeared and gone very negative translating into lost jobs.

Now just take a look at Korea. They say this deal is going to make trade better. Well, do you believe that? We already have a trade deficit with Korea, and this agreement isn't going to solve it because Korea already sells over a half a million cars in this country, but we only sell a few thousand cars there now. This agreement will not change these numbers and will result in more lost jobs in our country. This agreement contains no requirement for reciprocity.

I ask the Members to vote "no" on the agreements dealing with Korea, Colombia, and Panama.

UCCA CONDEMNS TYMOSHENKO SHOW TRIAL VERDICT

NEW YORK, NY.—The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the representative organization of the over one million Americans of Ukrainian descent, is outraged and strongly condemns the Pechersk court's sentencing of Yulia Tymoshenko.

The October 11th guilty verdict, which sentences the former prime minister to 7 years in prison, and bans her from holding office for three years, displays the selective and political motivations of the current regime and leaves no doubt that the court's decision was dictated by the government to remove one of the top opposition leaders from taking part in upcoming elections.

From the start, the UCCA, along with the international community, deemed the various court proceedings to be biased, not meeting international standards and selective in persecution of opposition leaders and former government officials. Thus, today's guilty verdict not only demonstrates the on-

going anti-democratic and authoritarian tendencies of the regime, but also severely threatens the country's European aspirations, specifically the expected ratification of an association agreement with the European Union.

President Yanukovich's use of criminal law to serve his own political end, must not be tolerated! The UCCA calls upon the government of the United States to take appropriate measures to support democracy and human rights in Ukraine. We urge the United States government to restrict visas and freeze assets of the current anti-democratic regime and to hold congressional hearings on sanctions and future foreign assistance to the government of Ukraine.

COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. I want to talk today about two people opposed to the Colombia Free Trade Agreement:

Alejandro Jose Penata—a teacher, a union organizer, a spokesperson for fairness for his fellow educators in a country where getting a decent education can be difficult to impossible. Also, I want to talk about Ana Fabricia Cordoba—an advocate for the displaced, an advocate for returning stolen land to those from whom it was taken.

Ana and Alejandro were part of a vocal and committed and brave group of Colombians willing to stand up for what they believed in. They stood up for the dispossessed, for peasants, for trade union members, and for those who want to join trade unions. Like many Colombians, they were tremendously concerned about a free trade agreement that reflected the interests of large corporations but not of those workers and farmers and poor people they fought for every day.

Ana and Alejandro, if they could, would be with us today to voice their opposition in person to the Colombia Free Trade Agreement, but they can't voice that opposition because they were both murdered in Colombia. Ana was shot dead on a public bus. Alejandro was tortured and hung with barbed wire. These are tragic facts, uncomfortable facts, unacceptable facts, but they are not isolated facts.

Sadly, the faces of Ana and Alejandro are the faces of Colombia today. Nowhere in the world is it more dangerous to be a union organizer, fighting for the wages and rights of working people than in Colombia. Twenty-three trade unionists were killed this year. Fifty-one were killed last year. And over the last several years, hundreds more have been threatened, driven out by violence or have simply disappeared. In 2010, more trade unionists were murdered in Colombia than in the rest of the world combined.

In Colombia, there is an organized, intensive campaign to prevent working men and women from working together to fight for better wages and working conditions, and it seems to be working.

So why would the United States want to endorse this behavior and reward the companies, working with the government, that have unleashed this violent assault on workers' rights?

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That, after all, is what a trade agreement is really about, a partnership. This is not a partnership the United States of America should enter into.

I'm voting "no" on the Colombia free trade agreement. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Colombia free trade agreement.

I believe the facts are simple. Voting for the Colombia free trade agreement is a vote for violent union busting, for driving people from their land, for setting the American working man and woman up to compete on an unlevel playing field that will cost us jobs and livelihoods. I know that it is difficult to look at these pictures and hard to accept the reality of the danger to people who speak up in Colombia.

But we cannot ignore the facts, and in Colombia, trade union activists are targeted for assassination and murder. That's not an easy fact to accept, but it's a fact. Approving the free trade pact with Colombia says that the United States can live with this fact. It brings the blood of union activist victims from Bogota to Washington. That blood won't be easily washed away.

Let's think about the movements for freedom happening from Cairo to Damascus to Tripoli. We applaud them. We congratulate the protesters.

When the union leaders in Wisconsin, Ohio, and Puerto Rico stand up for their rights against oppressive State governments, my Democratic colleagues, they applaud those workers. When angry Tea Partiers bash our government and talk about individual rights, my Republican colleagues applaud them.

Well, today we have a chance to do more than applaud. We can side with the people who are standing up for freedom in Colombia. I suggest that everyone in the House who has ever celebrated, applauded, or supported a popular, pro-democracy movement in the U.S. or abroad think long and hard before they vote "yes" on the Colombia free trade agreement.

Because what we see is what we get when it comes to free trade in Colombia. We get a partnership with a country where speaking your mind is a death sentence. I want free trade, but I'm for an agreement that builds commerce while protecting commerce, environment, and the rights of farmers and men.

This is not that agreement. This is an agreement that turns a blind eye to violence and oppression and injustice.

So I ask my colleagues to do what Alejandro and Anna who were murdered cannot do: say "no" to FTA with Colombia.

GRIDLOCK EXISTS IN UNITED STATES CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I stand once again to make a plea to our spiritual leaders throughout the United States to be heard and to speak out against the gridlock that exists here in the United States Congress.

I do this feeling very comfortable since we open up our session with a prayer and as everyone can see and many have taken for granted, it says: "In God We Trust."

Clearly, the protesters have caused quite a bit of inconvenience for my colleagues and the constituents in New York, but the fact remains that they speak out for a frustration that most all Americans have. Uncertain as to what the future holds for them, many have lost their jobs, their savings, pulled their kids out of school; and they are frustrated that we in the Congress hardly talk to each other because of the depth of polarization.

And yet beyond the politics of it all, whether it's Democrats or Republicans, when you think about it, this recession can only be stopped and unemployment lowered by a combination of two things, the reduction of our spending and the raising of revenue in order to increase not only the confidence that people have but the necessity of having economic growth so America can regain its status among civilized nations.

Yet we find very little movement here because there's some that have already embarked on the 2012 campaign. They do that even though millions of Americans are suffering painfully, seeking relief now and not waiting until the end of next year.

It seems to me, whether we are dealing with the Koran or whether we are dealing with the Bible or the Torah, one thing is abundantly clear, that those who believe in a superior force would know that one of the things that we have a moral obligation to do is to take care of the vulnerable among us.

This great Nation now has broken all records in terms of our middle class actually being shrunk as people are forced into poverty. One out of every five kids in the United States of America is born into poverty, and we find that a smaller number of people in our country are controlling nearly half of the wealth.

There's something wrong with that equation, and certainly this is the time to fill that vacuum. For those who believe there's no direction to the protesters, there may not be direction, but they certainly expect that their government should be there for them. Their government is gridlocked. Our spiritual leaders could encourage them not just to pray, but to become active, find out who the Members are that represent them in the Congress, ask them to be voting on these bills that can create economic growth or can create jobs.

And so whether you're Protestant or Catholic or Jews or gentiles or Mormons or Muslims, this is the time that America needs you. This is why our Forefathers have never written out religion. While it cannot dictate which religion, if any, you should have, certainly we do have freedom of religion.

And as the protesters have a constitutional right in order to speak out to release their frustrations, I think we have a spiritual responsibility to take those parts of the proclamations that they're making, the protestations that they're making, and those parts that take care of trying to get the vulnerable to get a fair shake out of this economic disaster we find ourselves in, let us take care of our aged, our sick, those that are in poverty.

Let Social Security and Medicaid and Medicare be something that's not a gamble, but something that the American people can depend on.

Let the churches and the synagogues and the mosques and the temples be open so people can express themselves, and let this Congress attempt to be more civil in recognizing that we have a responsibility that goes beyond the election. We have a responsibility to the American people. So I conclude my remarks and make my plea.

HONORING GENERAL DUNCAN J. McNABB

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to pay tribute to a leader and a warrior, General Duncan J. McNabb, commander of the United States Transportation Command. General McNabb is retiring after honorably serving this great Nation for over 37 years with a distinguished career.

General McNabb graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1974. As a command pilot, he has more than 5,600 flying hours in transport and rotary wing aircraft. In addition, General McNabb has held command and staff positions at squadron, group, wing, major command and Department of Defense levels and is considered the finest mobility and logistics expert in the Department of Defense.

I have had the pleasure of working with General McNabb from 2005 to 2007 when he assumed command of the Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base in the congressional district that I am privileged to represent and, again, when he returned to Scott Air Force Base to be the commander of USTRANSCOM in 2008.

USTRANSCOM is a critical part of our military operations. It provides the coordinated transportation, distribution and sustainment, which projects and maintains our national power. As a global combatant commander, General McNabb has made supporting the American warfighter his top priority.