

[From the New York Times, June 24, 2012]

A CRUEL AND UNUSUAL RECORD

(By Jimmy Carter)

ATLANTA.—The United States is abandoning its role as the global champion of human rights.

Revelations that top officials are targeting people to be assassinated abroad, including American citizens, are only the most recent, disturbing proof of how far our nation's violation of human rights has extended. This development began after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and has been sanctioned and escalated by bipartisan executive and legislative actions, without dissent from the general public. As a result, our country can no longer speak with moral authority on these critical issues.

While the country has made mistakes in the past, the widespread abuse of human rights over the last decade has been a dramatic change from the past. With leadership from the United States, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948 as "the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." This was a bold and clear commitment that power would no longer serve as a cover to oppress or injure people, and it established equal rights of all people to life, liberty, security of person, equal protection of the law and freedom from torture, arbitrary detention or forced exile. The declaration has been invoked by human rights activists and the international community to replace most of the world's dictatorships with democracies and to promote the rule of law in domestic and global affairs. It is disturbing that, instead of strengthening these principles, our government's counterterrorism policies are now clearly violating at least 10 of the declaration's 30 articles, including the prohibition against "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Recent legislation has made legal the president's right to detain a person indefinitely on suspicion of affiliation with terrorist organizations or "associated forces," a broad, vague power that can be abused without meaningful oversight from the courts or Congress (the law is currently being blocked by a federal judge). This law violates the right to freedom of expression and to be presumed innocent until proved guilty, two other rights enshrined in the declaration.

In addition to American citizens' being targeted for assassination or indefinite detention, recent laws have canceled the restraints in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to allow unprecedented violations of our rights to privacy through warrantless wiretapping and government mining of our electronic communications. Popular state laws permit detaining individuals because of their appearance, where they worship or with whom they associate.

Despite an arbitrary rule that any man killed by drones is declared an enemy terrorist, the death of nearby innocent women and children is accepted as inevitable. After more than 30 airstrikes on civilian homes this year in Afghanistan, President Hamid Karzai has demanded that such attacks end, but the practice continues in areas of Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen that are not in any war zone. We don't know how many hundreds of innocent civilians have been killed in these attacks, each one approved by the highest authorities in Washington. This would have been unthinkable in previous times.

These policies clearly affect American foreign policy. Top intelligence and military officials, as well as rights defenders in targeted areas, affirm that the great escalation in drone attacks has turned aggrieved families toward terrorist organizations, aroused civil-

ian populations against us and permitted repressive governments to cite such actions to justify their own despotic behavior.

Meanwhile, the detention facility at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, now houses 169 prisoners. About half have been cleared for release, yet have little prospect of ever obtaining their freedom. American authorities have revealed that, in order to obtain confessions, some of the few being tried (only in military courts) have been tortured by waterboarding more than 100 times or intimidated with semiautomatic weapons, power drills or threats to sexually assault their mothers. Astoundingly, these facts cannot be used as a defense by the accused, because the government claims they occurred under the cover of "national security." Most of the other prisoners have no prospect of ever being charged or tried either.

At a time when popular revolutions are sweeping the globe, the United States should be strengthening, not weakening, basic rules of law and principles of justice enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But instead of making the world safer, America's violation of international human rights abets our enemies and alienates our friends.

As concerned citizens, we must persuade Washington to reverse course and regain moral leadership according to international human rights norms that we had officially adopted as our own and cherished throughout the years.

Jimmy Carter, the 39th president, is the founder of the Carter Center and the recipient of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize.

HONORING MCKENZIE JOANN POLLOCK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a phenomenal young woman, Ms. McKenzie JoAnn Pollock, daughter of Philip and Cheryl Pollock. Throughout her time in high school, McKenzie has been extremely devoted to both her academics and extracurricular activities.

McKenzie's motivation to excel prompted her to do anything she could to ensure that she would be successful academically. In accordance with this, she took Advanced Placement classes throughout high school and she maintained all "A's" throughout her high school career. As a result of McKenzie's work ethic, she was rewarded numerous scholarships to college. She received the Lucky Day Citizenship Scholarship and the Choral Service Award from the University of Southern Mississippi, as well as the Best Buy Scholarship Award, the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant, and the Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant.

Not only has McKenzie excelled academically, but she has also been heavily involved in numerous extra-curricular activities. She served as the Warren Central Hall of Fame Club President, Student Government Senior Class Secretary; was a member of the Mock Trial Attorney and Witness team, Mu Alpha Theta Society, Varsity Choir, the Band, Drama Club, School Musical, National Honors Society, Youth Advisory Council, and she worked with the Children of the American Revolution

and Fundraising for the Children's Miracle Network. She also works for the U.S. Army Engineering Research and Development Center as a Civil Engineering Technician.

McKenzie has competed in several competitions in addition to her other responsibilities. She was the Poetry Out Loud School winner in 2009, and she has received the Gold Medal at the Mississippi Music Teachers' Association Evaluations (MMTA) and Federated Music Clubs of America for her singing. In 2011, McKenzie was crowned Miss Vicksburg's Outstanding Teen, and she went on to finish in the top ten in the Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen Scholarship Pageant.

Per her interest in the performing arts McKenzie is an active theatre participant. She has performed in many productions at the Vicksburg Theatre Guild and the Westside Theatre Foundation. McKenzie strongly believes that the performing arts should be an integral part of a child's education, and she enjoys every opportunity that allows her to introduce children to the arts. During summer of 2011, she was an assistant instructor in the Southern Cultural Center's Spectrum summer arts camp, which allows children the opportunity to explore the arts.

To culminate her high school career, McKenzie is honored to be named Valedictorian of the Warren Central High School's senior class of 2012. In the fall, McKenzie plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi, where she will major in Music-Vocal Performance with a minor in dance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring the Valedictorian of Warren Central High School's senior class of 2012, Ms. McKenzie JoAnn Pollock an outstanding young woman.

IN HONOR OF THE 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF PLANTATION HOME

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Stein on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of his interior design business, Plantation Home. Located in downtown Lakewood, Plantation Home offers a unique selection of home furnishings, gifts and accessories. At a time when scores of companies have closed their doors due to turbulent economic upheaval, Plantation Home has weathered those hardships and continues to be one of Lakewood's most successful and community driven companies.

Mr. Stein has graciously committed himself to the betterment of the Lakewood community in which he has lived since 1989. Stein has been a sponsor of the Lakewood Relay for Life, contributes to the Beck Center for Performing Arts, opened his home for the Lakewood Historical Society Home and Garden Tour and served on the City of Lakewood Community Relations Board where he designed a program to establish modern and artistic bus stops. He is the current board President of the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance where he directs efforts to revitalize and enrich the merchant environment with efforts including a City Wide Street Sale, Spring Stroll and Fashion Show, Streetwalk, Chocolate

Walk, Gingerbread House Tour and Scavenger Hunt and "Light Up Lakewood" during the holiday season—an effort to create beautifully decorated storefront windows reminiscent of Cleveland's downtown department store windows of years past. Annually, he awards a \$500 scholarship to one boy and one girl, the king and queen of the Light Up Lakewood festival, to put toward college, asking only that they dedicate 20 hours of community service to Lakewood in return.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Stein for his leadership, loyalty, civic pride and above all, caring for his community and what he and his business has meant to the City of Lakewood and Northeast Ohio for the past ten years.

HONORING EVANGELIST PIA
HAYNES WILLIAMS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of Evangelist Pia Haynes Williams, to the Texas Northeast First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. Evangelist Williams is being installed as the Jurisdictional Supervisor of Women, where she will oversee the work and ministry of over 35,000 women and youth in 300 congregations throughout North Texas.

Evangelist Williams has a proven record of service to the church. In keeping with her lifelong dedication to advance her faith, Evangelist Williams is founding President and CEO of her own international evangelistic ministry. Evangelist Williams also oversees the Women's and Youth ministries at the Love Sanctuary Church in Fort Worth, alongside her husband of almost thirty years. There, she continues to focus her efforts on empowering women to succeed in their personal and spiritual endeavors.

Considered a true "Daughter of the Church," Evangelist Williams also comes from a rich familial heritage, filled with loyalty and service to the Church. Evangelist Williams is the granddaughter of the founding Jurisdictional Bishop and First Lady of the Texas Northeast First Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ, while her father currently sits on the General Board of Bishops. Despite this highly decorated past, Evangelist Williams has remained a humble and compassionate servant of the church and its followers.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the work of Evangelist Pia Haynes Williams as she continues to provide spiritual guidance for thousands of North Texans. Her dedication to her community and faith will serve her well in this new capacity, and I wish Evangelist Williams continued success at the Texas Northeast First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. JOSEPH
M. GAUL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Joseph M. Gaul, the former Mayor of Fairview Park, Ohio.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio to Leroy and Gertrude Gaul, Joseph was a lifelong resident of Northeast Ohio. He attended Cathedral Latin High School and graduated from John Carroll University in 1957. Between graduating from high school and attending college, Mr. Gaul bravely served his country during the Korean War with the United States Air Force from 1951 to 1953, during which time he was stationed in Panama.

In 1958, Mr. Gaul moved to Fairview Park and became active in politics. He was elected Ward 2 Councilman in 1965 and served until he was elected Councilman-at-Large in 1969. In 1971, Mr. Gaul was elected Council President and served in that role for four years. Mr. Gaul was elected the Mayor of Fairview Park in 1975 and would be reelected twice. He ended his career after more than thirty years in 1992. During his tenure as mayor, Mr. Gaul was instrumental in developing Willowood Manor, Fairview Park's Senior Citizens residential complex and in annexing RiverEdge Township.

In addition to his political accomplishments, Mr. Gaul also served as the Vice Chair of the RTA Board of Directors and worked as sales manager for Wolverine Express, Central Transport, Inc. He was a parishioner at St. Angela Merici Church for more than fifty years and was member of the Parish Council. In 1996 the Ohio State Senate named Mr. Gaul the "Irishman of the Year."

I offer my condolences to his former wife of 46 years, Joan Adler; brothers, William and Leroy; children, Joseph Jr. (Meg), Patty, Eileen (Bart), Brian (Kathy), Kathleen (Mike), John (Marybeth), Michael (Julie), and Megan; and twenty-two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Joseph M. Gaul, who bravely fought for his country and valiantly served the residents of Fairview Park.

HONORING ELAINE WALKER
MAYOR OF LOVETTSVILLE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Loudoun County's longest-serving mayor, Elaine Walker of Lovettsville. At the end of the month, Mayor Walker will step down after serving as mayor of Lovettsville for nearly 22 years.

Mayor Walker's accomplishments during her tenure as mayor include acquiring land for a 92-acre county park, helping develop the Lovettsville bike and pedestrian path and most recently making the town's veterans memorial a reality. I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Elaine for many years. She has been an outstanding mayor and her leadership and steady hand will be missed.

Public service is one of our nation's highest callings and I extend my deepest gratitude for her service to our community. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

I also submit the following article from Leesburg Today on Mayor Walker's final council meeting.

LOUDOUN MAYORS PAY TRIBUTE TO WALKER

[From Leesburg Today, June 22, 2012]

It was all hugs and tributes in Lovettsville Thursday night as Mayor Elaine Walker received flowers and praise from a bevy of well wishers, including four of her fellow mayors, in what was her final council meeting.

Walker, who did not seek reelection in May, steps down June 30 after 10 years on the Lovettsville Town Council and almost 22 as the town's mayor—a governance record that is unlikely to be matched any time soon.

The mayors of four other Loudoun towns attended the meeting as well. "It was a complete surprise, I had no idea," Walker said of the appearance of Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro, Leesburg Mayor Kristen Umstattd, Middleburg Mayor Betsy Davis and Hamilton Mayor Greg Wilmoth. Hillsboro Mayor Roger Vance and Round Hill Mayor Scott Ramsey were unable to be present.

Davis said Walker's first reaction was to say to the group "What are you doing here?"

Lazaro led the delegation, presenting Walker with a plaque honoring her service. "We knew this was your last meeting and we wanted to say thank you for those 30 years," and for being a good friend and colleague to local government.

Davis told Walker "how much I will miss you as a friend, seeing you at all our [Coalition of Loudoun Towns] meetings. Thank you for all you've done for the county."

"But, we'll still have lunch," Umstattd said to her longtime colleague, also expressing her appreciation of Walker's service. Umstattd, who has been Leesburg's mayor for 10 years following service on the Town Council, will take over as the most tenured Loudoun mayor.

Wilmoth, the newest mayor in the group, said he appreciated all the help Walker has given him. "You have set the bar high for the rest of us," he said.

Walker's husband Cliff Walker, who served on the council in the 1970s, was present as was Lazaro's wife Carolyn—who both would get together during Virginia Municipal League conferences. "They're VML soulmates," Lazaro teased.

Walker said she did not plan to go away into the sunset. "I hope to still do some conferences, including the VML meetings. I love the camaraderie," she said.

Vice Mayor Bob Zoldos, who will become Lovettsville's mayor July 1, invited everyone to share some sweet-toothed goodies in recognition of the occasion.

The tributes went on with more flowers being presented—by the Lovettsville Fire-Rescue Squad in appreciation for Walker's long support, while Bob Zoldos' fifth grade son Bobby also presented a bouquet of flowers and read aloud a poem he had written in Walker's honor.

The last tribute came from Lovettsville's Community Police Officer, Sheriff's Office Deputy Bryan Wacker, who is being transferred to a new assignment. He thanked Walker for her assistance and said she had been "a great ally." He said his time with the mayor had been "one of the best working relationships" he'd ever had.