

Safi. Safi ran the Islamic Society of North America (an unindicted co-conspirator in the Holy Land Foundation Hamas financing case) and who was himself an unindicted co-conspirator in the Sami Al-Arian terrorism case (involving Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist org). As Andy McCarthy, a former federal prosecutor in terrorism cases, explained, "So what happens? Pentagon hires him as expert to teach Islam to our troops before they deploy from Fort Hood! And now, of course, he is the leader of the [Muslim] Brotherhoods' government-in-waiting for Syria. You just can't make this stuff up!"

Isn't it appropriate to ask: Who were the Muslim chaplains approved by this extremist? How did he get chosen to be in such a key position? What system of checking for extremism broke down so badly, or is so biased, that it allowed members and allies of radical Islamist organizations to play key roles in the U.S. government?

Part of the reaction to the National Security Five raising questions about the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood has come from a deliberate effort to deny the importance and the radicalism of the Muslim Brotherhood as a worldwide network. The level of self-deception necessary to misunderstand the Muslim Brotherhood verges on a psychosis. The organization's motto is "Allah is our objective. The Prophet is our leader. The Quran is our law. Jihad is our way. Dying in the way of Allah is our highest hope." Our elites discount all these words—and refuse to take them seriously.

Yet doesn't the lesson of Munich in 1972, New York City on Sept. 11, Hasan at Fort Hood, the Times Square car bomber, the bombings in Iraq this week—the list is endless—show that these words matter?

Consider clause seven of one branch of the Muslim Brotherhood—Hamas. Perhaps no one in our elites wants to read the Hamas Charter's clause seven because it is too horrifying. Consider: "The Day of Judgment will not come until Muslims fight the Jews, when the Jew will hide behind the stones and trees. The stones and trees will say, 'O Muslims, O Abdullah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him.'" Apologists for Hamas insist this clause has no meaning. But the Hamas leaders claim they cannot remove it from their charter.

The Muslim Brotherhood, in a 1991 document called the "Explanatory Memorandum," explained to its own supporters that its goal was "a kind of grand Jihad in eliminating and destroying Western Civilization from within and 'sabotaging' its miserable house by their hands and the hands of believers so that it is eliminated and God's religion is made victorious over all other religions."

This memo cited 29 different allied groups, including the Islamic Society of North America, the Muslim Students Association and the Islamic Association of Palestine. Leaders in some of these allied groups founded the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Just Friday, the Dubai chief of police warned about a Muslim Brotherhood effort to take over the emirates and seize their oil and natural gas wealth.

The Muslim Brotherhood is a serious worldwide organization dedicated to a future most Americans would find appalling. Seeking to understand its reach and its impact on the U.S. government is a legitimate, indeed essential, part of our national security process.

The National Security Five were doing their duty in asking difficult questions designed to make America safer. Their critics represent the kind of willful blindness that increasingly puts America at risk.

If we do not want a book to describe "Why Washington Slept," we will have to encour-

age elected officials to follow the advice of a later Kennedy book and exhibit "Profiles in Courage."

Bachmann, Franks, Gohmert, Rooney and Westmoreland are showing a lot more courage than the defenders of timidity, complicity and passivity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SISTER CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the arrival of a delegation from Shichigahama, Japan, in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

This August, the Town of Plymouth will be welcoming individuals from its sister city, the Town of Shichigahama in Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, for a week-long stay. This visit is particularly special to the people of the two towns, as it is the first opportunity that they have had to reconnect since the devastating earthquake and tsunami that ravaged Shichigahama's community and surrounding region in 2011. For nearly twenty-two years, Plymouth and Shichigahama have shared this unique status as sister cities, an appropriate relationship as the two cities have many commonalities. They both are coastal towns that are surrounded by beautiful scenery with similar industries and population statistics. The people of Plymouth and Shichigahama have long taken in each others' high school students on exchange trips, and they have supported each other during times of tragedy. In particular, the Town of Plymouth organized a number of fundraising events in order to aid Shichigahama following the 2011 tsunami. The deep bond that these two towns share is a prime example of how distance, variance in language, and cultural differences can all be overcome in the interest of shared human experience and unity.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great joy to recognize the arrival of a delegation from Shichigahama, Japan, to its sister city of Plymouth. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the significance of this visit, in welcoming our friends from Plymouth's sister city to the United States, and in wishing the delegation a pleasant stay.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION AND SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012. This is yet another broad and indiscriminate sanctions bill that will only serve to hurt ordinary Iranian people, undermine their democracy movement and further tie the hands of the President and his team in their efforts to achieve a diplomatic resolution over its nuclear program.

Proponents of this bill believe that tightening sanctions on Iran will bring us closer to a dip-

lomatic solution with Iran. We only need to look to the latest round of failed talks to recognize that these sanctions achieved the exact opposite response. U.S. negotiators lacked the flexibility they needed to secure Iranian concessions through the freezing of certain sanctions.

I strongly support Section 604 of this bill which makes clear that nothing in this bill shall be construed as a declaration of war or an authorization of the use of force against Iran or Syria. Yet this bill would further undermine and thwart the most effective tool we have to ensure that the United States does not get sucked into a war with Iran: diplomacy.

THE EFFECTS OF SANCTIONS ON ORDINARY IRANIAN PEOPLE

The Senate Banking Committee summarized this bill by saying that it "aims to prevent Iran from repatriating any of the revenue from sale of its crude oil, depriving Iran of hard currency earnings and funds to run its state budget." Spoken plainly, this bill will destroy the Iranian economy and further hurt the Iranian people that we claim to support. Iranians are already suffering under stifling sanctions as they experience rising food prices and a lack of access to basic medicine.

For example, the sanctions against the Iranian banking sector have greatly diminished the value of Iranian currency and have had a negative effect on nearly every aspect of the lives of ordinary Iranians: the price of rent, education and bread have all increased. Rather than having the sanctions weaken the Iranian regime, they are weakening the Iranian people and their ability to make a living or pursue an education.

A recent publication by the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) quotes an Iranian women's rights activist as saying that "The international community's sole focus on the nuclear issue has resulted in the adoption of policies that greatly inflict damage on the Iranian people, civil society and women. Militarization of the environment will prompt repressive state policies and the possibility of promoting reform in Iran will diminish."

The report further highlights that the sanctions this Congress pushed "directly affected the availability of foreign-made medication and other healthcare products including vitamins for children and pregnant women. . . ." It points out that these sanctions are "doing the most damage to those who are already vulnerable—the urban poor."

Iranian-Americans are even facing discrimination here in the United States. Several Iranian-Americans were recently prevented from buying an iPhone or other Apple products simply because of their ethnicity. Such discriminatory treatment is emblematic of the unintended effects of sanctions.

UNDERMINING THE IRANIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

These sanctions directly undermine Iran's civil society by giving the regime an excuse to crack down even harder on internal dissent. These sanctions will ensure that this continues to happen. With many ordinary Iranians struggling to simply make ends meet under our sanctions regime, they cannot afford to or spend the time necessary participating in social movements which provide basic social services or to push for democratic change in their country. Are these the intended effects we wish to have on the Iranian people or Iranian-Americans? If not, passing another broad and indiscriminate sanctions bill sends the wrong message.

If the sanctions the U.S. imposed on Iraq are any precedent, we know that sanctions are not an effective tool in promoting or supporting domestic democracy movements. We also know that those sanctions did not prevent an unnecessary and wasteful war with Iraq.

In effect, the expansion of the broad and indiscriminate sanctions included in this legislation hurts our ability to negotiate with Iran and imposes long-term detrimental harm on the Iranian people. It detracts from the real human rights abuses currently occurring in Iran by allowing the regime to deflect blame on the United States and its allies.

SUPPORTING REGIME CHANGE AND TYING THE
PRESIDENT'S HANDS

Section 217 in this bill effectively states that sanctions on Iran's central bank would not be lifted unless there is regime change. It does this by creating new requirements for the termination of sanctions that are dependent on the cessation of the Central Bank's financing of the Revolutionary Guard. Section 205 imposes new restrictions on the President's ability to waive certain sanctions. Collectively, these provisions have moved the goal post from negotiations over Iran's nuclear enrichment program to regime change. The U.S. record on successful regime changes is not impressive.

The National Iranian American Council has pointed out that this legislation "imposes collective punishment on the Iranian people by seeking to destroy the Iranian economy. The goal is to bankrupt Iran, and cause hyperinflation by destroying the value of Iran's currency, the rial."

If your goal is to punish the Iranian people, undermine their brave efforts to push for democracy, and thwart our sensitive and critical negotiations, then support this bill. If not, I urge you to join me in opposing this legislation.

SYRIA SANCTIONS INCLUDED IN THIS LEGISLATION

This legislation also requires the President to impose sanctions on actors that are responsible for or complicit in certain human rights abuses in Syria.

This legislation fails to acknowledge that the United States and a number of our allies are actively participating in stoking the violence on the ground, including through the arming and support of Syrian rebel groups. Divisions and in-fighting within the various militias operating on the ground are already occurring. If our own intelligence agencies are unable to fully grasp what is transpiring on the ground in Syria, we can be sure that these targeted sanctions will overlook other non-state actors that are participating in human rights abuses.

Recent reports also indicate that the instability and chaos in Syria has opened the door for fundamentalist groups to move in, including Al Qaeda. This threatens stability in the region as a whole and U.S. allies in the region, including Israel.

We can all agree that the violence in Syria must end. But in order to do that, supporters on both sides of the conflict must cease providing either side with the tools to continue this bloody conflict.

WELCOMING NAYYAR IMAM

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, today's opening prayer was delivered by Nayyar Imam from Mt. Sinai, New York—in my district on Long Island.

I am honored to welcome Nayyar to the House as a distinguished representative of Long Island's Muslim-American community.

I also welcome his wife of 24 years, Rizwana, and their son, Ahmer, who attends Baruch College, City University of New York, who are joining us from the gallery.

I am especially pleased that Nayyar was able to make the trip during Ramadan, the holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal.

I have known him for ten years—as a trustee of his mosque in Selden, New York and as a leading authority of Islamic culture across Long Island. He also serves the Islamic Association of Long Island and the Suffolk County Commission on Human Rights.

As the first Muslim-American chaplain of the Suffolk County Police Department, Nayyar has delivered the benedictions at its memorial services. He has also delivered opening prayers of the Suffolk County legislature.

I commend him for his service to my district and Long Island, as well as for the spiritual leadership he provides my constituents.

I thank Nayyar Imam and his family for joining us to open the chamber with today's prayer.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the problem of human trafficking. Every day all over our country, vulnerable women, and children and even men are stolen away from their communities and forced into work to line the pockets of criminals. Their stories and situations are different, but one common denominator remains: they are moved away, they are forced to work, their wages are stolen, and they are unable to leave. They are modern day slaves.

Under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, human trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion. You can find human trafficking victims everywhere. They are working in restaurants; nail salons; as maids and nannies; on farms; in factories; in brothels, on the street, and as online escorts—they exist in any industry where one's work and freedom can be stolen from them.

The Justice Department supports task forces dedicated to investigating human trafficking cases. Between 2008 and 2010, these task forces rescued 527 confirmed human trafficking victims. Some of the people rescued were sex trafficking victims, others were labor trafficking victims. But the statistics are telling. The majority of trafficking victims are women:

women made up 98 percent of sex trafficking victims and 68 percent of labor trafficking victims. The traffickers were overwhelmingly (81 percent) male. Most of the victims were under the age of 25. With sex trafficking, most of the victims were U.S. citizens, while labor trafficking largely affected undocumented individuals. But this data just scratches the surface of the problem that is out there, within our own borders.

Hundreds of thousands of trafficking victims are exploited every year in the United States. The Polaris Project estimates that there are 100,000 child sex trafficking victims in the U.S. alone each year. This figure came into clear focus in my hometown of Toledo, Ohio back in 2005, when a child prostitution ring in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania was broken up. The sting involved 177 girls, 77 of whom were from Toledo. One was a ten year old girl. They had all been stolen away from their family, from their community, and forced into prostitution in a city over 400 miles away. That discovery led to the discovery of many other girls from Toledo who had fallen victim to sex trafficking.

The problem is big, but progress is being made. One state representative from Toledo has worked tirelessly to address this issue at the state level. Representative Teresa Fedor recently saw her signature legislation signed into law. The legislation, Ohio's "Safe Harbor" law, ensures that children who have been trafficked are treated as victims and not charged with violations like solicitation. The law also increases the penalties faced by adult traffickers and helps victims access services to help return to society. Prior to the signing of this law, Representative Fedor passed a law to create a human trafficking charge that could be added to related crimes to increase the severity of the sentence.

The good work that Representative Fedor has done will undoubtedly help victims of trafficking in Ohio. I would like to ask unanimous consent to include an article from the Toledo Blade detailing her work in this area.

Human trafficking will remain a scourge on our society until we can assure that no human being is turned into a slave. I applaud the steps that have been taken so far, but also recognize that much more needs to be done.

[From the toledoBlade.com, July 31, 2012]

FEDOR FOUND VOICE IN HUMAN-TRAFFIC
BATTLE

(By Jim Provanco)

COLUMBUS.—"Without her, we wouldn't have a voice," a former human-trafficking victim recently said of Rep. Teresa Fedor.

But one might also say that it was this victim and others like her who gave the Democratic lawmaker from Toledo her voice.

The former elementary school teacher and former Air Force staff sergeant has without a doubt experienced political success. She'd been in the Ohio House only two years before Lucas County voters promoted her to the Senate in 2002. In 2010, when term limits forced her out of the chamber, they sent her back to the House. She faces no Republican opposition for re-election this year.

But making legislative gains proved more elusive.

An unscientific poll in the summer of 2007 by Columbus Monthly magazine of 100 lawmakers, lobbyists, and players in Gov. Ted Strickland's administration, and other Statehouse insiders ranked her among the least effective and politically savvy of state lawmakers.

Her colleagues in the Senate Democratic Caucus, a very small club, dumped her as