

Nisman's death, which, under the Kirchner government, was ruled a suicide. But we knew the truth all along, and ultimately the official report released in 2017 confirmed that Nisman was, in fact, murdered, no doubt by those close to Iran and Hezbollah, or those implicated in Alberto's investigation.

Mr. Speaker, this is just the first step in vindicating the work for which he was murdered. But we still have a very long way to go to bring Alberto Nisman justice and see the culmination of his work, which is to hold Hezbollah accountable for these brutal terror attacks against the Jewish community in Argentina.

Last year, I, along with Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and Congressmen TED DEUTCH, JEFF DUNCAN, and ALBIO SIRE, introduced H. Res. 201, which expressed support for the government of Argentina for its investigation of the AMIA bombing in 1994 and the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in 1992. The resolution also calls on our government to assist Argentina in ensuring all those responsible for these heinous acts are held accountable.

I would urge the Argentine authorities to do everything within their power to bring all responsible parties to justice and to bring at least some form of closure to the families of over 100 killed by Hezbollah in Argentina. Argentina owes them that much. And we all owe them a chance to see Iran and Hezbollah held accountable for their horrific acts of terror.

Though the AMIA bombing was 24 years ago, and the embassy bombing 26 years ago, the Jewish communities still feel the pain, and because Hezbollah is allowed to go unchecked in many places around the globe, they know that another attack may be possible anywhere in the world.

To commemorate the AMIA bombing, and in remembrance of the lives brutally taken, the American Jewish community's Belfer Institute for Latino and Latin American Affairs will be co-hosting a memorial and candle lighting ceremony with the Skylake Synagogue in North Miami Beach. The south Florida Jewish community holds this event annually to not only commemorate the victims of this attack, but to bring attention to the threat that is Iran and Hezbollah, as well as the hostility and the discrimination that Jews around the world are still facing and the rising tide of anti-Semitism.

Mr. Speaker, as the 24th anniversary of the AMIA bombing nears, let us remember the lives lost and continue working so that these acts do not happen again, and let us work to ensure that Iran and Hezbollah may never be able to carry out such terrible acts again.

Thank you to the south Florida community members for putting together this event and for their work to help bring justice to the families of the lives lost.

#### MOMENT OF TRUTH

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, finally, Scott Pruitt is gone.

After months of scandal, 19 separate investigations, countless ethical failures, abuses of his official office at taxpayer expense, finally, this corrupt, swamp creature who has been heading our Environmental Protection Agency announced his resignation last week.

As welcome as this news is for many of us, let's be clear: Scott Pruitt was far from the only creature in the toxic Trump swamp.

Another great example is our Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, who profited from short sales in a Russian-linked navigation company. He made those short sales only after learning that journalists with The New York Times were about to expose his conflicts of interest. And apparently, while serving as our Commerce Secretary, Ross was also partial owner of a Chinese company and a Cypriot bank that is a part of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

These are scandals that, in any other previous time, would bring down a Cabinet Secretary, but in this swamp climate of the Trump administration, it is just another news cycle and is soon supplanted by the next outrage and the next scandal.

Let's also not forget our Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, who faces many of his own scandals. Our Secretary of the Interior, of course, oversees oil and gas development on public lands. In this case, the Secretary stands to personally benefit from a land deal with the chairman of Halliburton, a company that has literally billions of dollars of business on the line when Secretary Zinke makes decisions about where, and how, oil drilling will be permitted in this country.

That is just the tip of the iceberg with this administration. It is time for this Republican Congress to wake up and take these issues seriously. Conduct some real oversight and put a stop to this culture of corruption in the Trump administration.

#### EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my appreciation for the wildland firefighters who are working to protect communities and, most importantly, lives throughout Utah.

Many of these firefighters are the same men and women who risk their lives to protect our homes and businesses every day in our towns and communities across Utah.

This fire season has been one of the worst in recent memory, including six

active fires that have consumed over 85,000 acres of land. The Dollar Ridge Fire, located in Duchesne and Wasatch Counties, has consumed over 50,000 acres alone. I drove by this fire last week and saw the devastation firsthand, unable to fully imagine the heartbreak families experience as they watch the fire approach their homes and their livelihoods.

While combating these dangerous situations, wildland firefighters put themselves in harm's way to keep others safe. They work in extreme heat and unpleasant conditions to protect our communities. I will continue to support strong funding for the fire suppression-related activities that these firefighters rely on.

Today, it is important that they receive the recognition that they undoubtedly deserve. Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the wildland firefighters of Utah for their continued bravery in keeping Utahns safe.

#### HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Small Business Access to Capital and Efficiency Act, also known as Small Business ACE Act.

As a member of the Small Business Committee and a former small business owner myself, I am proud to introduce a bill that will help reduce burdensome and conflicting regulations that are keeping small businesses from growth and access to capital.

The Small Business Administration's 504 loan program helps small business owners grow their company and stimulate job creation, at no expense to taxpayers. Many favorite businesses like Magleby's Restaurant, Market Street Grill, Chobani Yogurt, FatBoys Ice Cream, and so many more, have expanded operations and hired new employees because of the SBA loan program.

I love hearing the success stories of businesses like Premier Building Supply located in Lindon, Utah, a company that started in a garage back in 2009. Since then, Premier has quickly become a leader in supplying the Utah building industry and, with the help of an SBA 504 loan, has now grown into a 50,000-square foot facility with 150 employees.

This is just one example of the many small businesses in Utah that have great potential for tremendous success if they have access to capital. However, as we see far too often, the Federal Government has maintained burdensome and conflicting regulations that weigh down the 504 program with uncertainty, and ultimately hurt the very businesses it was meant to help.

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The Small Business ACE Act will eliminate and harmonize conflicting Federal regulations burdening the program to ensure small businesses more efficiently have access to capital without costing the taxpayer a single dollar.

I am grateful to have the support of Chairman CHABOT and stakeholders like NADCO, Mountain West Small Business Finance, and Utah CDC, who know better than anyone just how critical the 504 program is.

I am squarely on the side of helping small businesses and am committed to keeping the Federal Government from getting in the way of their success. I believe the Small Business ACE Act is a great step in the right direction, and I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

#### HATE CRIMES INCREASE

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, in my community and in communities across this Nation, we have seen in the past year a dramatic increase in hate crimes and attacks against immigrants and, generally, against people of color.

In New York City, we saw how a lawyer named Aaron Schlossberg launched a racial verbal attack against workers at the Fresh Kitchen restaurant in Midtown Manhattan simply because they spoke Spanish.

Think about that for a minute, Mr. Speaker. This was in New York City, a city that prides itself on being a city of immigrants, a city which touts the presence of Lady Liberty herself on the harbor. Still, this lawyer felt compelled—without any hesitation, shame, or guilt—to confront workers at the Fresh Kitchen restaurant, verbally assaulting them simply because they spoke Spanish.

Yet we keep seeing more and more examples of aggressors and harassers launching vicious attacks and directing hate speech toward those whom they wrongfully perceive to be un-American.

In another recent incident, Rodolfo Rodriguez, a senior citizen, 91 years old, was brutally attacked for his ethnic background. He is of Mexican descent. He was told to go back to his country before being brutally assaulted with a brick.

In another recent incident at the Caldwell Woods Forest Preserve, Ms. Mia Irizarry was another victim of verbal harassment, abuse, and physical intimidation in an almost unthinkable 20-minute racial rant. Her harasser caught sight of Ms. Irizarry's shirt, patterned with a Puerto Rican flag such as this one, and proceeded to verbally assault her simply for the sighting of a proud American wearing a flag that represents 3.5 million American citizens on the island of Puerto Rico and several million more here in the United States.

The perpetrator said: If you are an American citizen, you should not be wearing that shirt in America.

Let me remind him that Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens, that they have a long and distinguished tradition

of defending freedom and democracy for our Nation across the world. They have spilled the blood of thousands in support of America and democracy.

Each of these instances and situations come on the heels of a 2017 California report, the first published since President Trump took office, indicating a 17 percent increase in hate crimes. Specifically, anti-Latino, anti-Hispanic hate crimes have soared, with increases of more than 50 percent last year.

Mr. Speaker, according to a Quinnipiac poll, 58 percent of Americans disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling immigration, and 55 percent of Americans say that the President has made it easier for racists to share their views publicly.

Like Attorney Schlossberg in New York City, like Jones in Los Angeles and Timothy Trybus in Illinois, we find aggressors and perpetrators who do not represent our values as a nation of immigrants.

The problem we have is that these individuals have seen our leaders in elected office participate in hateful and intolerant acts with hateful and intolerant words. Whether in New York City, Los Angeles, or Cook County, we have seen naked racism and blatant bigotry.

To these bigots I say this:

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

The United States is for all of us—regardless of the color of our skin or the language we speak.

Los Estados Unidos es para todos—independientemente del color de la piel o el idioma hablado.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York will provide the Clerk a translation of his remarks.

#### U.S. ATTACK ON BREASTFEEDING

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it is just hard to keep track of the daily outrages: the President is not just insulting, but attacking allies like Canada on national security grounds; a tariff war; reckless and inaccurate attacks on NATO and our allies, the bedrock of stability in Europe; the President of the United States cozies up to one of the worst people on the face of the planet. Kim Jong-un, the dictator of North Korea, has imprisoned over 100,000 of his people in concentration camps, starved millions more, murdered members of his own family and is held up as some sort of exemplar by Trump. Trump says he likes the way his people pay attention to him. Well, maybe because if they don't, they get killed or sentenced to a concentration camp. This notion that we are forcibly separating children from families at the border, where the family simply is looking for asylum, inflicting probably permanent damage

on these children; and, of course, the countless environmental attacks and the activities of corrupt cronies who have been put in positions of authority.

Last week we witnessed one of the most despicable acts of this disturbing administration: The United States launched a global attack on breastfeeding—yes, breastfeeding.

Think about it for a moment. Mother's milk is the most nutritious way to feed a baby. It contains antibodies that provide it with health protections as a baby and throughout its life.

There was an innocuous resolution that was being advanced before one of the United Nations affiliates, the World Health Assembly, to promote breastfeeding.

This is a serious problem in developing countries. Global giants that sell baby formula have been touting this as a healthier, more convenient alternative. Recent studies show that less than 40 percent of poor women in developing countries are breastfeeding. The use of infant formula in these poor countries not only is inferior, not only does it lack the long-term health benefits, and is it not a cheaper alternative for low-income people. Actually, in many of these countries, mixing formula with dirty water poses a direct threat immediately to the health of the child.

Ecuador, a member of this assembly, was prepared to introduce a routine resolution promoting breastfeeding. Then this administration sprang into action, pressuring Ecuador—allegedly, with retaliation in the trade sector—to not offer the resolution. Ultimately, the bullying was successful; the resolution was not advanced by Ecuador. Although, irony of ironies, it was Russia that stepped up and moved forward with the resolution, which was ultimately adopted with minor changes.

What does it say about America and this administration that it would be doing the bidding of giant international corporations, promoting a practice that actually undermines health in many poor people? Just having a resolution promoting the benefits of breastfeeding was threatening to their business and to this administration.

We have seen a lot of disturbing and shameful acts since Trump became President, but it is hard to imagine something worse than what was on display last week.

It is time for my Republican colleagues to join us, expressing outrage about behaviors like this. We are better people, and we ought to demonstrate it.

#### NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon my colleagues to join me in addressing our Nation's rising debt. As of this week, our national debt is