

CONGRATULATING NATIONAL JEWISH MEDICAL AND RESEARCH CENTER

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mr. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver, Colorado on its recent accolade in U.S. News & World Report. National Jewish was ranked the number one respiratory hospital in America in a guide published by U.S. News in July, 1998. National Jewish is truly deserving of this honor, and I believe this hospital's dedication to respiratory illness merits the recognition of the U.S. Congress.

National Jewish has built a rock solid reputation in patient care since its inception as the Frances Jacobs Hospital in 1899. At that early time in Denver's history, National Jewish engaged itself thoroughly in battling tuberculosis through emotional, rehabilitative, occupational and recreational care. In fact, my family settled in Denver in the 1930s to pursue asthma treatments at National Jewish for my Great Grandmother, Esther Rosen. Since that time, the hospital and research center has diversified its range of health care services to include the study and treatment of respiratory, allergic and infectious diseases, psychological care, and education courses. Despite this notable expansion, which now demands the work of 105 physicians and scientists, National Jewish has clearly maintained a commitment to the best possible patient care. This most recent ranking in U.S. News distinguishes National Jewish from a field of 6,400 candidates, all of them esteemed institutions. Simply stated, National Jewish is the best respiratory hospital in America.

Also published in U.S. News was a far more telling ranking—a reputational score tabulated by a random survey of 150 board-certified specialists. Once again, National Jewish clearly distinguished itself from all candidates, receiving an impressive score of 58.1 percent. Of all the facilities which treat respiratory illnesses, doctors all around the country consistently recognized the excellent reputation of National Jewish as the best. Currently, National Jewish operates a prestigious fellowship program in pulmonary, immunology and allergy training which has trained 500 fellows in 47 states and 17 countries. Its positive influence on the treatment of respiratory illnesses is not only international, but also unprecedented.

CRISES IN SUDAN AND NORTHERN UGANDA

**HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome Assistant Secretary Susan Rice along with the other witnesses. I look forward to their testimony.

Twelve years ago Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni marched a 20,000-strong rebel army to Uganda's capital, Kampala, and

liberated the Ugandan people from the reign of two of the most oppressive dictatorships the world has ever seen. During their successive regimes Amin and Obote murdered over one million people. While the United States and the Western Powers did nothing, Museveni took action.

Since then, the story of Uganda is nothing short of phenomenal. President Museveni immediately formed a Human Rights Commission to investigate the atrocities committed under the former dictators. Today the Commission is chaired by a judge and overseen by Members of the High Court. The mandate of the organization is to serve as a watch-dog by monitoring government activities, and to educate the public about respect for human rights.

After the establishment of the Human Rights Commission, President Museveni began assembling judges, lawyers, and other scholars for the purpose of drafting Uganda's Constitution. His administration actively solicited the involvement of men and women at the grassroots level. Several thousand Ugandans submitted memorandums offering suggestions. An important component of the Constitution is a provision institutionalizing the Human Rights Commission.

Perhaps most astonishing has been Uganda's economic growth under President Museveni. Real GDP growth has averaged 6.7% over the last ten years. Inflation has been reduced from 250% to 6%. The country has liberal current and capital accounts, so there is no restrictions on foreign exchange. To ease the concerns of foreign investors, Uganda now offers insurance to investors through the Multi-lateral Insurance Guarantee Agency of the World Bank. Under Amin, Ugandans of South Asian heritage were stripped of their properties and forced to leave the country. President Museveni has allowed them to return, and has given back their businesses and land. To encourage American tourists and investors, citizens of the United States no longer need visas to travel to Uganda.

Understanding that an exclusively government breeds its own opposition, President Museveni held elections and has an administration that reflects the diversity of Ugandan society. In 1987 a reporter asked him how he could afford to have such a large and diverse government. His answer was a simple one: "It is cheaper than war."

Mr. Chairman, this is what President Museveni has built in just twelve years. But even more important than what he has done for Uganda, President Museveni is perhaps the first of a new breed of leader on the Continent. He has proven that African leaders no longer need to follow the orders of their colonial masters to achieve success. Independence and security, Museveni has shown, are not mutually exclusive.

Unfortunately, all of this is threatened by an entity as evil as the world has even seen. Northern Uganda is plagued by a rebel insurgency known as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), led by Joseph Kony. The LRA is notorious for looting homes, and abducting and enslaving thousands of Ugandan children. Boys as young as 11 years old are forced to serve as soldiers and to participate in extreme act of violence. Girls of the same age are made into sexual slaves. Nearly all of the children who escape from the LRA are found to be HIV positive. The UN Children's Fund estimates

that up to 10,000 youngsters have been victims of rebel atrocities. Backed by an oppressive and terrorist regime in Sudan, the LRA is a direct affront on the new Africa.

Mr. Chairman, it is time for Congress and the Clinton Administration to embrace President Museveni and Uganda as a partner for peace and stability on the African Continent. We must make a decision. Will the United States continue its centuries old neglect of Africa? Will it continue to support only the Mobutu Sese Sekos and Jonas Savimbis of Africa? Or, if President Clinton's trip truly marked a new beginning in relations between the United States and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, will we support those that are doing the right thing?

The current crisis in Northern Uganda poses this question. I, along the countless others who care about the future of Africa, await the answer.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LONG BEACH

**HON. STEPHEN HORN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, when the House voted earlier this week to add \$109 million in funding for the Legal Services Corporation, it was a victory for low-income Americans and our ideal of equal justice under law. The Legal Services Corporation plays a key role in the administration of justice for low-income Americans who cannot afford to pay the often high costs of civil legal assistance. It makes the ideal of equal justice under law a reality for the most vulnerable members of our society.

Legal assistance for the poor has made a real difference for many of my constituents. Funded in part by the Legal Services Corporation, the Legal Aid Foundation of Long Beach has helped many of my constituents correct injustices in their lives. For example, one client, Rosa, had an estranged husband who often beat her. During a one-day, court-allowed visit, the husband took their children and fled to Mexico. He did not return the children for more than a year. After he again threatened to take the children to Mexico, Rosa tried unsuccessfully on her own to get a restraining order. The Legal Aid Foundation of Long Beach helped her to get a restraining order prohibiting removal of the children from California and cutting off her ex-husband's visitation.

In another case, five tenants in an apartment house in downtown Long Beach sought assistance from the Legal Aid Foundation when their landlord tried to evict them. The building had been cited multiple times for health and safety violations and had been illegally converted from six units to eleven. The tenants wanted to move but lacked the money to pay moving costs and deposits at another apartment. The Foundation successfully defended the tenants in the eviction proceeding and worked with the City of Long Beach and obtained safe, habitable Section 8 housing for them.

These are just two examples of the good work of the Legal Aid Foundation of Long Beach, and the work funded by the Legal Services Corporation. The House was right to