

Under international law, rape, sexual assault, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced sterilization, forced abortion, and forced pregnancy may all qualify as crimes.

RAPE AS A WAR CRIME, AND A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

The crime of rape, in particular, has long existed under customary international law. Some treaties have mentioned rape specifically, whereas other treaties and international conventions have made reference to rape as a crime against humanity when directed against a civilian population.

The nineteenth century Leiber Code, for example, listed rape as a specific offense, and made it a capital offense. Later, World War II prosecutions, and the Geneva Conventions, reinforced the prohibitions on rape and other sexual violence, although the focus was on crimes of sexual violence against civilian populations.

Some evidence of sexual violence was presented before the International Military Tribunals, after World War II. Most notably, in the judgments of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, rape was first specifically referenced. Allied Control Council Law No. 10, which governed the prosecution of defendants at Nuremberg, listed rape as one of the enumerated acts constituting a crime against humanity.

In the Tokyo war crimes trials, acts of sexual violence and rape were not placed at a level that would allow them to stand alone. The Tribunal presented evidence relating to sexual atrocities committed upon women in places such as Nanking, Borneo, the Philippines, and French Indochina. Rape and acts of sexual violence were categorized as crimes against humanity because they amounted to inhumane treatment.

Today, the prohibition against rape and sexual violence in armed conflict is even stronger. In 1993 and 1994, rape was specifically codified as a recognizable and independent crime within the statutes of the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and for Rwanda (ICTR).

In addition, the ICTY and ICTR cases have also reinforced the legal basis for arguing that rape and sexual violence are both individual crimes against humanity, and violations of the laws and customs of war.

Finally, the new statute of the International Criminal Court also recognizes rape as crime against humanity when it occurs in the context of armed conflict.

I hope that all of the POWs are treated humanely, and come home soon. And I hope Shoshana Johnson is transported to a neutral country—as she is entitled to be, as the mother of an infant—if she continues to be held.

To ensure that these things happen, it is also important for the international community to make clear what obligations Iraq has with respect to all POWs, and the special obligations it bears to female POWs in particular.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. GEORGE E. MCRAE ON HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA GENERAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2003*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in offering our

prayerful best wishes and congratulations to the Reverend Dr. George E. McRae of Miami, Florida, my Pastor and the Pastor of Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church, on the occasion of his election as the new President of the Florida General Baptist Convention.

Reverend McRae is perhaps uniquely qualified, by both education and experience, to carry out this important responsibility. He earned his Bachelor's degree at Bethune-Cookman College at Daytona Beach; His Master of Divinity degree at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta; and his Doctor of Ministry degree at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta. In addition to his fourteen years as Pastor of Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. McRae has served as Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Daytona Beach; and the Bethlehem Baptist Church and the New Mount Zion Baptist Church, both in Palatka.

Reverend McRae has received numerous awards for his work, including the NAACP's Humanitarian Award and the Miami Herald's Charles Whited Spirit of Excellence Award, and he has lectured extensively. He was also featured in a front page article in the Wall Street Journal, which chronicled his work at Mount Tabor and the establishment of M.O.V.E.R.S. Inc.—Minorities Overcoming The Virus Through Education, Responsibility and Spirituality—which provides comprehensive treatment, education, counseling and housing assistance to AIDS victims and their families in low-income Miami neighborhoods.

In addition to these great achievements, though, Pastor McRae's highest qualification as leader of Florida's Baptist faithful must truly be the strength of his commitment to Christ's teachings, as exemplified by the caring and humanity of his ministry.

He is a person of great personal power whose very presence cheers those who are afflicted. He is a person of great vision who inspires people to help other people—from caring for the hungry in the church basement after Sunday services to making health care available, in their own neighborhoods, to people who otherwise could not afford health care, even if they had access to it. He is a person who has devoted a lifetime of energy and creativity to the betterment of others.

I extend my best wishes to Pastor McRae and his wife, Mary, for the sacrifices they have made to help others, for their caring and their leadership, and for taking on this additional burden and responsibility, which is so important to our families and our community.

HONORING CHRISTY WHITNEY

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a deeply compassionate and sensitive woman. Christy Whitney has devoted much of her life to helping others in need as a Registered Nurse, and ultimately as CEO and President of Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado. Today, I recognize Christy's years of service before this body of Congress.

Christy has touched many lives while working in the nursing profession for the past 27 years. As recognition of these years of dedicated service, she was recently named recipient of the 18th Annual Nightingale Award Celebrating Nursing Excellence. Coworkers nominated Christy for the award through an essay and several letters of recommendation. Peers noted that Christy has an intelligent and passionate approach to nursing, characteristics she shares with Florence Nightingale, the renowned nineteenth century nurse. Christy remains humble about her successes and emphasizes that her responsibility as an administrator is to create an environment in which others can perform their job well.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body of Congress today to recognize Christy's compassion and devotion to helping others. I would like to congratulate Christy on her prestigious award and the profound respect that she has earned from her coworkers. Her lifelong commitment to serving others certainly warrants the respect of this body and our nation. Christy has answered a noble calling by tending to those in need and I commend her for her selfless public service.

HONORING JEFF HANCOCK

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a successful businessman who has provided Western Colorado with years of service. Jeff Hancock has devoted much of the past ten years to serving as CEO of the Grand Junction-based organization, Rocky Mountain Nurses, Inc. Today, I would like to honor Jeff's accomplishments and the impact he has had on the Grand Junction community by expanding his prominent full-service home health-care firm.

Rocky Mountain Nurses, Inc. was founded in 1995 as a small temporary nursing service. Through small business loans, it was recently able to add fifty new jobs in Mesa County. The firm is now located in a new corporate office, employs approximately 180 people, and has opened a medical equipment retail store. The expansion of Jeff's firm has allowed him to provide nursing services to more than 350 people per month. The U.S. Small Business Administration recently honored Jeff by selecting him as Colorado Small Business Person of the Year. He was one of 53 recipients of this award, and is currently in the running to be named as National Small Business Person of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body of Congress today to recognize the positive impact that Rocky Mountain Nurses, Inc. has had in my district. Jeff embodies the combination of ambition and altruism necessary to guide an expanding firm dedicated to serving the community. I would like to congratulate him on this prestigious award and the respect that he has earned from his peers. I wish Jeff all the best in his future endeavors.