

TRIBUTE TO MIKE COPP

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to pay tribute to a remarkable citizen and civil servant from my district. Mike Copp of Glenwood Springs, Colorado recently announced his upcoming retirement as City Manager after twenty years of service. Mike has been a valuable citizen and public servant, and I would like to take this time to honor him and his two decades of hard work before this body of Congress and this nation here today.

Mike came to Glenwood Springs twenty years ago to fill the position of City Manager. Throughout his tenure, Mike has received numerous offers to manage larger cities, but he has chosen to stay put and continue to work in the city that he proudly calls home. Mike's shoes will not be easy to fill, and thankfully he has committed to stay on and help find and train his replacement. Mike has spearheaded many projects that have benefited the city over the years, and his leadership will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, the position of city manager is not an easy one to fill and bears a tremendous amount of responsibility. Mike Copp did a wonderful job of meeting and exceeding those expectations. As he prepares for his future beyond public service, I would like to extend Mike my best wishes on whatever he chooses to pursue next. I thank him for his twenty years of service to the Glenwood community.

RECOGNIZING LAS MISIONES—PRESERVING SAN ANTONIO'S LIVING HISTORY WEEK

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, next week Old Spanish Missions Inc. will launch the \$15 million Las Misiones—Preserving San Antonio's Living History capital campaign. This campaign will provide critical funds to preserve and restore the San Antonio Missions. These missions are among the most important historical sites in America. Today I am paying tribute to this important campaign to keep the unique history and culture of San Antonio alive.

The King of Spain sent families to establish missions that became the heart of San Antonio. Though the missions were originally built to expand Spanish New World influence northward from Mexico, the missions' Franciscan Fathers have, throughout San Antonio's history, provided valuable charitable services and ministered the needs of the native people who were displaced by the settlements.

Each of the San Antonio Missions has its own story, which together comprise a significant part of the tumultuous and beautiful history of central Texas. Mission San José was used as a garrison during battles. Mission Concepción became the center of religious activity. Mission Espada is known for its unusu-

ally crooked archway—perhaps a mistake by the builder. Mission San Juan's rich farmlands made it a regional supplier of agricultural produce. At a time when our city is developing faster than ever, the Las Misiones campaign is preserving an important piece of our past, so the stories of the San Antonio Missions will not be forgotten.

Today I thank the Las Misiones Campaign for helping save these crown jewels of San Antonio by educating the public and raising funds to prevent their deterioration. Over 1.5 million people visit the San Antonio Missions each year and they have become San Antonio's third biggest tourist attraction. As President Lyndon B. Johnson once said, "If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it." To those of us who cherish the relics of the past, we should be indebted to the Las Misiones Campaign for their work to care for the buildings whose foundations were laid by our ancestors many years ago.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION OF ROMAN CATHOLICS IN CHINA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, you may recall that on September 25, I shared with our colleagues that I have been meeting with a number of groups who have been working for years to document and bring to our attention the numerous abuses committed by the Chinese government upon its own people.

The Roman Catholic Church is one such group whose bishops, priests and congregations face continual harassment and persecution. I urge colleagues to read the following statement, provided by the Cardinal Kung Foundation, and hope that it will move them to action as it has moved me.

"IN THEIR OWN WORDS" STATEMENTS ON PERSECUTION OF THE UNDERGROUND ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CHINA PROVIDED BY THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

The promise of religious freedom in China is a false one. The Chinese government severely and systematically persecutes members of China's spiritual communities, including Roman Catholics, Protestants, Evangelical Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, Uighur Muslims, and members of the Falun Gong movement.

The Chinese government views religion as a threat to its power.

The Religious Affairs Bureau screens religious groups for official approval or disapproval; monitors membership in religious organizations; and controls locations of meetings, religious training, selection of religious hierarchy, publication of religious materials, and funding for religious activities. Those groups that defy the control of the Religious Affairs Bureau face severe consequences: mass campaigns, surprise raids, imposition of heavy fines, imprisonment, and torture.

The Chinese government officially permits only those Catholic churches affiliated with the CCPA. The Chinese Catholic congregations that continue to recognize the authority of the Pope constitute the Catholic underground in China.

The government considers the underground church illegal. Penalties for belonging to the underground Roman Catholic Church include exorbitant fines, imprisonment, house arrest, beatings, and labor camp internment.

Currently, every one of the underground Roman Catholic Church leaders is either in jail, under house arrest, under strict surveillance, or in hiding.

Bishop Su Zhimin, the underground Bishop of Baoding, Hebei was arrested in 1997 and has not been heard from since. His location and whether he is alive or dead remain unknown.

Bishop An Shuxin, the underground auxiliary Bishop of Baoding was arrested in March 1996 and is still in jail.

Bishop HaN Dingxiang, the underground Bishop of Yong Nian, Hebei was arrested in December 1999 and remains in jail.

Bishop Shi Enxiang, the underground Bishop of Yixian, Hebei was arrested on April 13, 2001 and is yet to be released.

Priests face similar harassment.

Fathers Pang, Ma, and Wang were arrested in July 2002 and were sentenced to three years in a labor camp for "disturbing the peace of society" under the "cult" law.

In March 2002 Father Ma Shunbao, 50, was arrested while he was offering Holy Mass on Easter Sunday and in March 2002 Father Wang Limao, 32, was arrested.

In December 2002, Father Pang Yongzong, 30, was arrested in his home.

Rev. Dong Yingmu, 37, an underground Roman Catholic priest serving the diocese of Baoding was kidnapped by the Chinese authorities during Christmas 2002 when he was on his way to offer a Holy Mass.

The abuses have continued, recently Father Lin Daoming of Fuzhou, Fujian was arrested in May 2003 when he returned home to visit his mother.

In June 2003 Father Lu Xiaozhou of Wenzhou, Zhejiang was arrested when he was preparing to administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to a dying Catholic.

In July Fathers Chen Guozhen, Kang Fuliang, Li Shujun, Pang Guangzhao, Joseph Yin of Baoding, Hebei were arrested while on their way to visit another underground priest, Father Lu Genjun, who was just released from labor camp after serving there for three years.

As figureheads for the church Roman Catholic Bishops and Priests are regularly harassed. However, their congregations are not exempt from state oppression.

On December 12, 2000, the Agency French Press reported that "authorities in eastern China have shut down, and in many cases blown up, 450 Catholic and Protestant churches, as well as Taoist and Buddhist temples." Many more churches have been destroyed since then.

Six Roman Catholics from Wenzhou and Zhejiang went to DongLu in Baoding, Hebei and were arrested May 2002. They were fined a total of \$3,850 for the "illegal pilgrimage."

In July 2002, 31 underground Roman Catholics, 26 of whom were students under the age of 18, were arrested during a summer vacation catechism class in a private home.

The National Catholic register reported that "as many as 23,686 Christians have been arrested since 1983; 20,000 have been beaten; and 129 have been killed in an effort to stamp out the underground churches."

In January 1997, the Cardinal Kung Foundation published a secret Chinese government document titled "The Procedures Legally to Implement the Eradication of Illegal Activities/Operations of the Underground Catholic Church."

The above are but a few of the many examples of the harsh and ongoing persecution of underground Roman Catholic clergy and laypersons in China. The Cardinal Kung