

case-scenario outlined in that letter came to pass yesterday morning; when the visibly distraught families were forced onto buses by Cambodian police, and sent back across the border to Vietnam.

At this point, I believe that the international community bears the remedial burden of seeking robust, credible access to the Montagnard returnees to help ensure their well-being. I earnestly hope that the Government of Vietnam, in a tangible demonstration of the goodwill generated during the Prime Minister's visit to Washington last month, will favorably accommodate this request.

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS,
Washington, DC, May 4, 2005.

Ms. WENDY CHAMBERLIN,
Acting High Commissioner for Refugees, United
Nations High Commission for Refugees.

DEAR Ms. CHAMBERLIN: We are writing to express our serious concerns about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in January of this year by UNCHR, Cambodia, and Vietnam. In particular, we are concerned that the MOU does not ensure that adequate safeguards are in place to guarantee that refugee decisions are fully informed and voluntary, and does not provide UNHCR with unfettered access to returnees inside Vietnam. Accordingly, we urge the suspension of all repatriations of Montagnards to Vietnam until credible international monitoring of returnees is established in the Central Highlands.

While the MOU commits Cambodia to provide temporary protection to Montagnard refugees and asylum seekers, we are troubled by ongoing reports of their forcible repatriation by Cambodian authorities. As you are likely aware, credible reports describe continuing persecution, repression, and mistreatment of Montagnards in Vietnam, including those who have returned from refugee camps in Cambodia. The fact that UNHCR has had no access to the 35 Montagnards repatriated to Vietnam under the MOU thus far is particularly problematic. More immediately, we are concerned for the welfare of the approximately 100 rejected asylum seekers in Cambodia, and urge that none of them be forced back to Vietnam in current circumstances.

Against this background, we respectfully request that UNHCR:

Seriously reevaluate the MOU and work with Cambodia and Vietnam to revise it to ensure that refugee decisions are fully informed and truly voluntary, and that UNHCR has full and unfettered access to returnees inside Vietnam;

Suspend all repatriation of Montagnards until adequate monitoring is in place in the Central Highlands;

Maintain its protective mandate over all Montagnard shelters in Phnom Penh, including Site 1, which currently houses rejected cases;

Re-open the rejected caseload in Phnom Penh for those interested in having their cases considered on appeal again; and

Press the Vietnamese government to streamline the procedures for family reunification of Montagnards in Vietnam for those who have received authorization from the U.S. government to join family members in the United States.

Historically, UNHCR has taken the lead in protecting refugees around the world, important work that we strongly support. However, we are concerned that, unless it is promptly remedied, the January MOU sets a dangerous precedent for refugee protection in Cambodia and elsewhere by lowering the

standards for refugee repatriation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. LEACH,
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Asia and the Pacific.

ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on,
Asia and the Pacific.

DR. FREDERICK K.C. PRICE:
LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize and congratulate one of the most distinguished pastors serving in the Los Angeles area, Mr. Frederick K.C. Price. Dr. Price, founder and pastor of Crenshaw Center and host of "Ever-Increasing Ministries", has accomplished a feat that very few have achieved in life—50 years of ministering the uncompromising Word of God. In 2005, Dr. Price will celebrate his "Golden Anniversary" as a minister, pastor and teacher of the Gospel.

It all began on January 3, 1932, in Santa Monica, California, when Frederick Kenneth Cercie Price, Jr. was born as the eldest of two sons to Fred and Winifred Price. He has one sister, Delores W. Jones. A product of the Los Angeles public school system, Fred Price attended McKinley Elementary School in Santa Monica, Foshay Junior High, Manual Arts and Dorsey High School in Los Angeles, and Los Angeles City College. He received an honorary diploma from the Rhema Bible Training Center in 1976 and an honorary Doctorate of Divinity Degree from Oral Roberts University in 1982; both institutions are based in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was then referred to as Dr. Frederick K.C. Price.

Dr. Price met the former Betty Ruth Scott while attending Dorsey High School. They were married in March 1953 and have four children Angela Marie Evans, Cheryl Ann Price, Stephanie Pauline Buchanan, and Frederick Kenneth Price, Jr. All of the Price children and their spouses (A. Michael Evans, Jr. and Danon Buchanan, Angel Price) work in the family ministry. Drs. Fred and Betty Price also have six grandchildren; Alan Michael and Adrian Marie Evans; Nicole Denise and Allen L. Crabbe III; and Tyler Stephen Buchanan and Justin Eric Buchanan. The marriage of Fred and Betty Price spans more than 50 years.

Dr. Price was an assistant pastor in the Baptist church from 1955 to 1957, and then pastored an AME (African Methodist Episcopal) church in Val Verde, California from 1957 to 1959. He went from there to the Presbyterian Church, then to the Christian and Missionary Alliance in 1965. In 1973, Dr. Price and 300 parishioners moved from West Washington to establish Crenshaw Christian Center (CCC) in Inglewood, CA. In 1984, CCC outgrew its Inglewood facility and purchased the former Pepperdine University Los Angeles campus. CCC is not the home of the Faith Dome, with approximately 10,000 seats, is the largest church sanctuary in the United States. Construction on the FaithDome began in 1986, finished in 1989, and the Dome was

dedicated on January 21, 1990. Currently, CCC's church membership totals over 27,000.

In addition, in 1990, Dr. Price founded the Fellowship of Inner City Word of Faith Ministries (FICWFM). Members of FICWFM include pastors and ministers from all over the world. The Fellowship's mission is to provide fellowship, leadership, guidance a spiritual covering for those desiring a standard of excellence in ministry: In May 21, 2001, Dr. Price established CCC East, in Manhattan, New; the current membership is approximately 1,000. Dr. Price travels to New York every month to teach the weekly Bible Study and Sunday service.

People all over the world know of Dr. Price through the "Ever Increasing Faith" television, radio and tape ministry. The Ever Increasing Faith Ministries program reaches more than 15 million households each week throughout the United States, according to recent Neilson ratings. Dr. Price is the author of some 50 books on faith, healing, prosperity, and the Holy Spirit. "How Faith Works" is a classic book on the operation of faith and its life-changing principles. He has sold over 2.1 million books since 1976. His most recent projects include, "Race, Religion and Racism, Volume 1: A bold Encounter with Racism in The Church".

In September, 2000, Dr. Price was the first black Pastor to speak at Town Hall Los Angeles. In 1998, he was the recipient of two prestigious awards; the Horatio Alger Award, presented by an Alexandria, Virginia based association honoring those who exemplify inspirational success. He also received the Kelly Miller Smith Interfaith Award, presented by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, honoring those who have made the most significant contribution through religious expression affecting the nation and world, and most recently, he was presented the Living History Makers Award by Turning Point Magazine, honoring those while they walk among us leaving an indelible footprint of their deeds while making our world a better place.

RECOGNIZING DOUG AND
HEATHER HUTCHENS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Doug and Heather Hutchens, of Argyle, Texas. Their love for children led them to embark on a fairly new procedure.

Mr. and Mrs. Hutchens are pioneers in the area of embryo adoptions. This procedure allows infertile couples to adopt excess embryos from genetic parents who participated in the process of in vitro fertilization. Unlike traditional adoptions, this procedure allowed Heather to carry and give birth to her children.

After a home study, background check, financial check, and completing the paperwork, the Hutchens created a profile for the genetic parents of the embryos. On their second attempt, Heather gave birth to two twin boys—Sam and Ben, and then two years later, David.

Satisfied with their decision, the Hutchens play a key part in promoting the process of adopting embryos. They have taken their efforts to Washington, DC to protest legislation to expand stem cell research.

Today, I want to recognize and congratulate Doug and Heather Hutchens. Their commitment to their pro-life and conservative views on life has made them the proud parents of three beautiful boys, and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE WORK OF WYCLEF JEAN AND HERMAN MENDOZA IN STRENGTHENING DOMINICAN/HAITIAN RELATIONS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the humanitarian efforts of Mr. Wyclef Jean and Herman Mendoza in addressing the needs of the Dominican and Haitian communities through their newly formed organization, "One Voice" in a much needed effort to create goodwill between Haitians and Dominicans on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

Hip-hop musician Wyclef Jean, founder of Yele Haiti, a nonpolitical, nonprofit foundation that provides education and other opportunities for children in his impoverished nation, is working with Herman Mendoza, co-founder and director of operations for Stepping Stones Ministries, a College Point, New York nonprofit organization that provides humanitarian aid to countries hit by disasters and funds programs for troubled youth.

"One Voice" is geared toward uniting Dominicans and Haitians through mutual support and aid. Its design is to encourage Dominicans in the U.S. to help Haitians in Haiti, and Haitians in the U.S. to help Dominicans back home.

Relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic have been fractious for generations. Haiti—a prosperous French colony known as St. Domingue in the 17th century and later, the first black republic—annexed the Dominican Republic (when it was known as Santo Domingo) in the 19th century. Haiti ruled all of Hispaniola from 1822 to 1844, when forces led by Juan Pablo Duarte established the Dominican Republic as an independent state.

Other conflicts between the two countries have fueled mutual distrust. In 1937, under orders from President Rafael Trujillo, Dominican soldiers killed close to 30,000 Haitian sugar cane workers along the border. These events occurred in a matter of weeks for various reasons but mainly because the skin of the Haitians was a few shades darker than that of the Dominicans.

The historical events surrounding the Dominican/Haitian relationship have continued to divide the Dominican Republic and Haiti so deeply that there may as well be an ocean not only around them but between them.

The tenuousness of the Dominican/Haitian relationship remains, but the efforts of Mr. Wyclef Jean and Herman Menendez are an important first step in developing a mutual understanding between the two nations.

I applaud their leadership on this issue and am pleased with their commitment to giving back to their communities in an effort to ease long seated resentment and unify the island and its people to achieve political, social, and economic development that will benefit the people of both nations.

[From Newsday, July 3, 2005]

HAITIANS, DOMINICANS JOIN VOICES TO HELP

A popular Haitian-American entertainer and a Dominican-American have joined forces to create goodwill between Haitians and Dominicans on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

Hip-hop musician Wyclef Jean, founder of Yele Haiti, a nonpolitical, nonprofit foundation that provides education and other opportunities for children in his impoverished nation, is working with Herman Mendoza, co-founder and director of operations for Stepping Stones Ministries, a College Point nonprofit organization that provides humanitarian aid to countries hit by disasters and funds programs for troubled youth.

Jean said the movement he and Mendoza started, called One Voice, "will encourage Dominicans in the U.S. to help Haitians in Haiti, and Haitians in the U.S. to help Dominicans back home. This never happens," he said. "Believe me."

Relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic have been fractious for generations. Haiti—a prosperous French colony known as St. Domingue in the 17th century and later, the first black republic—annexed the Dominican Republic (when it was known as Santo Domingo) in the 19th century. Haiti ruled all of Hispaniola from 1822 to 1844, when forces led by Juan Pablo Duarte established the Dominican Republic as an independent state.

Other conflicts between the two countries have fueled mutual distrust. In 1937, under orders from President Rafael Trujillo, thousands of Haitian sugar cane workers in the Dominican Republic were massacred.

Jean pointed to striking disparities between Haitians and Dominicans. He said in his country—which has been wracked by coups and invasions and is now the poorest nation in the hemisphere—most Haitians live on less than \$1 a day; unemployment is close to 80 percent; more than 50 percent of the people are illiterate. In contrast, he said, there is 15 percent unemployment in the Dominican Republic and 15 percent of the population is illiterate.

Mendoza said he did not notice tension during a recent visit to his homeland, but he said numerous Haitians are there looking for work and are subject to checks by immigration officials. "As far as Dominicans embracing Haiti, I don't see a problem," Mendoza said. "We want to work out our differences socially, politically and economically. People will see there's no bias."

One Voice is reaching out for medical and educational supplies for needy areas of both countries, sections of which were devastated by floods last year. Jean and Mendoza are asking the public to share some of what's in their medicine cabinets. They are collecting items for babies and adults, such as disinfectant and toothpaste, plus pens, crayons and notebooks, among other things.

"Numerous humanitarian service organizations as well as entertainment and music celebrities have pledged their support of this drive," Jean said. "If each family puts together one kit, it can mean so much to our countries."

A service that Stepping Stones Ministries sponsored on April 15 in Washington Heights—home to many Dominicans in New York—raised \$1,000 to support the cause. A similar service is scheduled for July 30 at the True Worship Church in the East New York section of Brooklyn.

One Voice hopes to help children in both countries fulfill their dreams.

"Despite what history tells them about the conflicts between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, we want them to know they are one," said Jean. "Our project is set up to

show them that at least Dominicans and Haitians in the U.S. can live that reality.

"The first step," Jean added, "is for us to send aid to the most impoverished communities, not as Haitians or Dominicans, but as One Voice."

RECOGNIZING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC PARISH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Immaculate Conception Lithuanian Catholic Parish as it celebrates its 110th Anniversary on October 16, 2005. Since its founding in 1895, the Parish has been symbol of faith to the East St. Louis community.

The church was founded by Lithuanian immigrants after they fled religious bondage and famine occurring in Russia during the late 1800s. The first purely Lithuanian Catholic congregation was organized in 1885 in New York. Soon afterwards separate Lithuanian churches were built in other places like Immaculate Conception of East St. Louis in 1895.

The challenge of the Church is to be a constant light in a dark world and to bring resilience and hope to the people who need it most. Throughout these 110 years Immaculate Conception Lithuanian Catholic Parish has done just that. My family and I are proud to have attended mass at Immaculate Conception Lithuanian Catholic Parish.

My prayer is that God will continue to bless this small congregation and that they would remain a positive influence for the future of the Parish and the community of East St. Louis.

CONGRATULATING MR. PERRY M. SIMMONS ON HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AND SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Perry M. Simmons on a lifetime of work and dedication to the public. Mr. Simmons has spent his life serving the city of Baytown, Harris County, the State of Texas, and his country.

Mr. Simmons served in the Navy during World War II on board the ship that carried General Douglas MacArthur back to the Philippines, the USS *LST 709*. He would advance through the ranks to become lieutenant and go on to earn four combat medals and a Philippine Liberation Medal. After serving in World War II Mr. Simmons returned to Texas to earn his bachelors degree in Journalism. After short but successful careers in advertising and management, Governor Dolph Briscoe personally appointed Mr. Simmons Deputy Director for the Governor's Committee on Aging.

Mr. Simmons won his first election to Baytown City Council in 1980, and was hired by then-Harris County Judge Jon Lindsay as his