

that I've been focused on a lot is the country of Belarus, the last dictatorship in Europe.

The political, economic, and human rights situation in Belarus has significantly deteriorated. A total of 33 opposition leaders and activists are still being held in prison for peacefully protesting against a dictatorial regime and a falsified 2010 presidential election. Silent protests have sprung up on an online campaign, called "Revolution through Social Networks," which encourages people to come to their localities' central squares every Wednesday to express discontent with the Lukashenko regime.

Opposition activists, journalists and ordinary people have been and continue to be arrested. The authorities have also launched "distributed denial of service" attacks on opposition Web sites.

The United States and the European Union continue to condemn these activities. We must think strategically about Belarus post-Lukashenko when the people of Belarus are finally able to establish a democratic society based upon the principles of a free-market economy. In anticipation of that day, each and every one of us should prepare now so as to be in a position to rapidly assist in the establishment of internationally recognized elections and rules-based, transparent government in Belarus.

#### SUDANESE WAR CRIMES AGAINST NUBA CIVILIANS

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, thanks to the courageous reporting of two journalists for Al Jazeera's English network, Callum Macrae and John D. McHugh, who risked their lives to find the truth, we have shocking evidence of war crimes committed by the Sudanese Armed Forces against Nuba civilians in Sudan's South Kordofan province.

Here in this photo is a 2-year-old victim of an air strike, and here is a bomb crater in the middle of this Nuba village—50-feet wide and 15-feet deep. Here, Mr. Speaker, is satellite imagery analyzed by Harvard University's Humanitarian Initiative that reveals evidence of mass graves outside South Kordofan's capital of Kadugli.

At this moment, Mr. Speaker, as the U.S. personnel hide behind their barracks walls, the SAF are hunting men, women and children on foot, in fighter jets, and with bombs rolled out of back doors of cargo aircraft onto Nuba villages. Where does the United Nations stand as the Nuba are wiped out? Where do we stand?

#### HONORING LINDA LOPEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Cali-

fornia (Mr. CARDOZA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a great American, Ms. Linda Lopez, a treasured member of my staff, who passed away over the Fourth of July weekend. It is somewhat appropriate that that was the weekend that she passed away since she was such an honorable and patriotic lady. Her services will be held today and in our hometown that we shared.

Linda was not only a dedicated constituent services representative; she was a tireless advocate and community leader in Merced, California. Born in New Mexico, Linda moved to California's Central Valley in 1955 where she attended public school in Madera and then later attended Stanford University. For the past 40 years, she was involved in civil rights and social justice work, and was considered one of the most influential Latina Americans in the Central Valley.

Linda's community leadership included serving on the City of Merced's Redevelopment Agency Gateway Projects Citizens' Advisory Committee, the City of Merced's Planning Commission, and several City of Merced ad hoc committees. She also served on the San Joaquin Valley Partnership Telecommunications Committee and the California State Advisory Board for Transportation Planning and Environmental Justice.

Linda Lopez was also an alumnae of the Great Valley Center's IDEAL inaugural class, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality, and Leadership Merced. Not surprising, given her devotion to her community, Linda was named the 1998-99 Hispanic Woman of the Year by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

□ 1320

Linda joined my Merced district staff in 2006 as a constituent services representative, acting as my eyes and ears in the community. She worked on thousands of cases and helped thousands of people. She never let go of a case she believed needed work, and was meritorious. Linda prided herself on giving 100 percent to everyone who walked in the office regardless of their political party, the color of their skin, what they believed or didn't believe. She believed everybody deserved to be treated well. It was not unusual for Linda to work late nights and weekends, to make home visits to elderly constituents needing assistance, or to follow up with a phone call long after she had done her best to resolve a case.

The hallmark of Linda's work was her unbelievable compassion; and she was appreciated not just by the people she helped, but by her community as a whole. Linda's passion for making a difference set her apart from many others. She offered a kind smile and a compassionate ear to everyone she came in contact with. Often Linda's re-

lationship with other community members evolved into a mentorship program, and as her legacy, she asked that there be established a leadership scholarship in her name. Linda guided many other aspiring community activists in her passion and her efforts to serve others.

In addition to her role as a public servant, Linda was a wife and mother, and her beautiful family will miss her dearly. Linda Lopez made Merced, California, a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud today to call her a member of Team Cardoza, and even more proud to call her a friend.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to honor this great American, Linda Lopez, for her work, for her tireless efforts on behalf of our community, and for her work on behalf of our country.

I would now like to yield to my good friend, the gentleman from Florida, for the remainder of my hour.

#### GOP WHEEL OF MISFORTUNE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) is recognized for the remainder of the hour.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was overcome with disbelief to hear my Republican colleagues, the same colleagues who are leading America head first into its first default of its obligations, call on President Obama to start picking and choosing who wins when we run out of money.

Now, pay our seniors first, Mr. President. When we force a default, pay our bondholders first, Mr. President. Pay our soldiers first, Mr. President.

The GOP is shockingly silent, however, remarkably quiet when it comes to naming who the Treasury should stop paying when they force us into a default.

Now, in case you weren't aware, let me clue you in on the definition of a "default." It means the inability, the failure, to meet our financial obligations. And we have many financial obligations we cannot afford thanks to the possibility of this default that our friends on the other side of the aisle are leading us toward. This is a crisis that they manufactured: two wars unpaid for; tax cuts for millionaires that were unpaid for; policies that ignited a fiscal crisis and sunk us into a sea of red ink.

Now their refusal to accept responsibility for this debt that they created means that someone who the Treasury owes money to will not get paid. Someone will not get paid, and the full faith and credit of the United States of America will be broken.

Now, they're playing a game with our economy to try to force through an extremist agenda. That's what we have been battling against. That's what you've been watching. That's what people around the country are so incredibly frustrated with. It is a game that