for his years of service, and in our best wishes for whatever life holds in store for him and his wonderful family.

JUDICIAL CORRUPTION IN ARGENTINA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following remarks to the attention of my colleagues. These remarks were delivered on July 22nd, at a congressional human rights caucus members’ briefing on corrupt practices in Argentina’s judicial system. While Argentina has made some strides toward democratization, the information shared with members at this briefing suggests that much work still remains to be done with their judicial system.

STATEMENT OF MS. VIRGINIA GOLAN, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN AFFAIRS, BUENOS AIRES YOGA SCHOOL FOUNDATION (BAYS)

Honorable Members of Congress, staff members, concerned activists, friends, ladies and gentlemen, thank you with all my heart for the opportunity to share with you our story. It is a sad one... but with your help, I hope that there may still be a happy ending for us and for democracy in Argentina.

My name is Virginia Golan. I am 28 years old. I am from Argentina. I am a member of a small institute and school of philosophy, the Buenos Aires Yoga School (BAYS). I should be in Buenos Aires today studying, but I can’t because of government oppression. I should be with my friends, but I’m not because they are in hiding. Today, I spend as much time as I am able in the United States because I am afraid to go home. In fact, I haven’t spent very much time at home since I was badly beaten four years ago by agents of the Argentine police.

The first time, late one evening when leaving a meeting of my school, I was attacked. They threw me against a wall, told me not to look back, and threatened me if I did not stop my activities lobbying efforts in the BAYS case. The next time, in broad daylight, after I left the Argentine Legislature, a strange car pulled next to me. They beat me while shouting, “Stop causing trouble for the judges, you whore, or we’ll kill you.” The attackers concentrated on hitting my face, leaving me with black eyes and grotesque bruising of my mind and her that her parents are lying. She is here with us today. To make matters worse, Maria Valeria Llamas’ mother launched a psychological vendetta against the BAYS institution.

In March 1995, the Argentine Court of Appeals instructed the Lower Court criminal trial judge to investigate the BAYS case, a procedural duplicula that is highly unusual even under Argentina’s bizarre judicial system, as admitted by the final personal defense attorney Moline O’Connor and Adolfo Roberto Vasquez. The third criminal trial judge, Corvalan de la Collina, has escalated the terror, authorizing new motions to be filed, based on the same meritless facts. Such is the situation with my 27-year-old friend, Maria Papparella. Her parents have distanced her all her life. As any sane person would do, she left that life of abuse as soon as she was of age. Now her parents continue harassing her by accusing BAYS of involuntary servitude. Maria Veronica Cane and Maria Valeria Llamas’ mother launched a psychological vendetta against the BAYS institution.

But the Argentine judiciary refuses to close the BAYS investigation. The judicial nightmare that ensued has consumed the last six years of my life and the lives of the 300 families of BAYS. It is about abuse of power. It is about greed and corruption. It is about fear, and violence and brainwashing. It is about a child who was brainwashed and corrupted his 24-year-old stepdaughter.

The judicial nightmare that ensued has consumed the last six years of my life and the lives of the 300 families of BAYS. It is about abuse of power. It is about greed and corruption. It is about fear, and violence and brainwashing. It is about a child who was brainwashed and corrupted his 27-year-old stepdaughter.

Six years ago, a member of BAYS, Maria Valeria Llamas, was subjected to rape, sexual abuse and psychological torture by her stepfather, Sommariva, he countersued by accusing our school of being a cult that sex, rape, and murder. He will steal you blind through a miscarriage of justice. The same judge who has stripped me of my rights for a dollar, will rob you blind through a miscarriage of justice. The same judge who today, more than ever, I beg that you may kill me tomorrow with an American gun. Today, more than ever, I beg that you understand this should be of concern to you and all Americans. Although we were never 1,000 strong in membership, today, after 6 years of constant judicial persecution and violation of our human rights, only 300 remain. The Directors and students of BAYS have seen their honor and their dignity publicly soiled through denigrating accusations of crimes. After 6 years, we know the baseless charges will never be proven in a court of law, as they are blatant lies. Ladies and gentlemen, every evening when we return to our homes, we are afraid to find our families ransacked. We are afraid to find our friends, ladies and gentlemen, 18352
dreams. I am very afraid because I do not know how much longer we will have the strength to continue this fight against oppression—a fight for our very survival, a fight for freedom for the Argentine people. I wonder, how long can we and must we endure? Use of our great Nation, America, that you help us make our dreams of a democratic Argentina come true some day. I cannot thank you more deeply from my heart for your help.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 163 CALLING FOR THE FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE BOMBING OF THE JEWISH CULTURAL CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, today is the Tisha B’Av, 5759 by the Hebrew calendar, the most important day of mourning in the Jewish year. It commemorates the destruction of the most tragic events in Jewish history, for it was on this day, in 3338 the first temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians, and in 3282 that the second temple was destroyed by the Romans.

Although this day is primarily meant to commemorate the destruction of the Temple, it is appropriate to consider on this day the many other tragedies of the Jewish people, many of which occurred on this day, the expulsion of the Jews from Spain, Betar, the last fortress to hold out against the Romans during the Bar Kochba revolt, fell, and so many others.

But the tragedies of Jewish history are not all so ancient. This past Sunday marked the 5th anniversary of the bombing of the Jewish Cultural Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. On July 18, 1994, the Jewish Cultural Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina was destroyed by a terrorist bomb. Eighty-six people were killed. Over 300 people were wounded. The Argentina Mutual Aid Association’s archive of community records, which dated back to 1894, was destroyed.

While this bomb destroyed the building, and the records, and the lives of so many—Jews and non-Jews alike—it has not dampened the spirit of the Jewish population of Argentina, which at 250,000 is second only to the United states in this hemisphere.

What is dispiriting is that today, five years after that tragic bombing, we still have not brought the terrorists to justice. Though we have recently seen the arrest of more suspects, there is still no resolution, no closure for the families that still grieve for their loved ones.

That is why I am choosing today, Tisha B’Av, the ninth of Av, to introduce a concurrent resolution calling upon the Argentine Government to fully support and devote all resources necessary to the efforts of Judge Juan Jose Galeano and to fully investigate, apprehend, and prosecute those responsible for the bombing; requesting that the Argentine security forces and the judiciary of Argentina not impede this independent investigation; and requesting that Argentine President Carlos Menem appoint an independent committee to investigate and report on the integrity and competence of Argentina’s system of justice.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT L. EHRlich, JR. OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. EHRlich. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, July 26, 1999, I missed several votes because my wife Kendell and our new baby boy were released from the hospital. Specifically, I missed the following two rollcall votes: 335 (Hoeffel amendment to H.R. 1074); and 336 (passage on H.R. 1974). If I had been present I would have voted “no” on rollcall No. 335 and “aye” on rollcall No. 336.

Likewise, I would have voted “aye” on Mr. McINTOSH’s en bloc amendments to H.R. 1074; S. 604; H.R. 2565; H. Res. 172; H.R. 457; S. 1260; S. 1259; and S. 1258, all of which were agreed to by voice vote.

FLAG CITY USA

HON. GREG WALDEN OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, in the vast Second Congressional District of Oregon lies a city named Redmond, also known as “Flag City USA.” Redmond is called “Flag City USA,” because currently it proudly displays 687 flags that have been flown over our Nation’s Capitol. I would like to commend the citizens of Redmond for this great project that shows a strong sense of community spirit and patriotism.

The first display of flags was on July 4, 1991, the day that our nation officially welcomed home all veterans from Desert Storm and prior wars. The initial display was the concept of Mr. Mac McShannon. With the help of City Councilman Randy Povey, it became a reality. The flags displayed included 180 flags that had once draped the caskets of fallen veterans, which were made available by American Legion Post 44.

When Mr. McShannon and Mr. Povey learned that the flags from the previous year would not be available to display in the future, the Downtown Redmond Flag Committee was born. A representative of almost every civil organization of Redmond met with the American Legion, and a mission statement was developed and it reads as follows:

It is the feeling of this committee that flags should be flown on our city streets during appropriate holidays and other special occasions. Therefore, the acquisition, display, and perpetual care of the flags are now points we must address. Since this should be a community endeavor, we would like all area organizations, clubs, businesses and interested individuals to join us in a plan to perpetuate Americanism, the display of our flag and the Redmond Community Spirit.

True to their mission, community spirit is exactly what the city has shown. Since the first formal meeting on September 29, 1991, until today, the Flag Committee has obtained 687 flags, all of which have been flown over our Nation’s Capitol and their final goal is 1,000 flags. Many local businesses have donated supplies, while local community organizations like Rotary, Kiwanis, Moose, Elks, Smokey- RYFD, Boy Scouts, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Chamber of Commerce and the City Council have kept the program going with their support.

On Saturday, July 31, the City of Redmond will receive their 700th flag, a tremendous milestone on their way to the final goal of 1,000. I am happy that I will be a part of Redmond’s celebration in achieving this milestone.

Patriotism has rarely been more apparent than when you drive down the main streets of Redmond on one of the special occasions when the 700 flags are flown. Each time I see this display, a strong sense of pride in my country and those who have served to protect our freedom is renewed. I know of no other city in the United States that comes close to matching Redmond’s efforts to honor our flag and American pride. I am proud to say that I represent “Flag City USA” in the United States Congress.

PRIVATE ACTIVITY BONDS

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am announcing my intention to co-sponsor H.R. 864, the “State and Local Investment Opportunity Act of 1999.” This legislation would accelerate the increase in the private activity bond cap so that it would take effect at the beginning of next year, and index that cap in subsequent years for inflation.

I take this step in recognition of the value of expanding low interest rate financing for projects which include affordable housing, single family mortgages, student loans, environmental cleanup, and manufacturing job creation, and in recognition that politically, at least for the present, this may be the only way to accomplish these desired results.

However, I also feel compelled to express my reservations about expanding this and other tax-oriented mechanisms without a more extensive Congressional review of the merits of using the tax code for these purposes. Specifically, the issues of efficiency and accountability need to be addressed much more fully.

Every dollar of foregone tax revenue impacts the federal surplus or deficit in the exact same way as does an increased dollar of spending. Yet, the combination of tight discretionary spending caps and the popularity of tax cuts seems to have convinced lawmakers that the easiest route to increase resources for important priorities is through a tax credit or tax expenditure.

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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