

HIGHLINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL,

Aurora, CO, February 17, 1999.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF: I am an abolitionist in a campaign called S.T.O.P. S.T.O.P. stands for Slavery That Oppresses People. We heard a very disappointing thing about some slaves. John Eibner, a man who works for a humanitarian group called C.S.I sent a urgent appeal to the government about this and that the soldiers were going to raid the villages, but they didn't do anything. On February 4, 1999 four hundred nine innocent people were taken into a miserable life being treated like animals. When I found out about this, I was heartbroken to know that so many people could be taken into bondage. The good news is that we freed 850 slaves.

Join us to eradicate and abolish slavery. Please help us by writing to people that are important. If you have any questions you can reach us at (303) 364-7657.

Please help us,

LINDY DE SPAIN.

HIGHLINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL,

Aurora, CO, February 17, 1999.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: I'm Miriam a concerned youngster in the STOP campaign it stands for Slavery That Oppresses People. This is a human rights campaign, we try to end slavery. I thought slavery had been eliminated. We freed slaves last week but Sudan was attacked and four hundred-nine people were put into slavery it was shocking. We need your help and spread the word that slavery exists please helps us! The government has sat idly by, for years and years. John Eibner works for CSI he goes to Sudan and frees slaves. He had sent an urgent appeal that Sudan was being attacked to the United Nations but no response, they ignored this awful issue and they ignored this awful issue too often!

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DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: Hi! I am Josh Hook, an abolitionist. I have some devastating news to tell you. A few days ago John Eibner went to Sudan and he was told that the north was ready to fight. So John told the U.N. but they ignored him. Then four hundred nine people were put in slavery. Just because the government did not do a single thing!

We started a campaign called S.T.O.P. S.T.O.P. stands for slavery that oppresses people. Will you use your voice to tell your fellow colleagues or contact C.S.I. or A.A.S.G.

Love,

JOSH HOOK.

HIGHLINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL,

Aurora CO, February 17, 1999.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF: Hi! My name is Dong, this is devastating news! On February 4, 1999 four hundred nine people were put in slavery! John Eibner sent a urgent appeal to the United Nations, but they did nothing. Right now I feel distraught. Please help us! Please join our S.T.O.P. campaign and help us free slaves! Women and children just like me are now put in slavery. I demand you to help us! My heart is frowning because this is going on, my heart is crying. I forgot to tell you that the north attacked a village. John Eibner warned them but they did nothing. Also S.T.O.P. stands for Slavery That Oppresses People. Please help us abolish slavery and please bring awareness to the world!

Sincerely,

DONG CHA.

HIGHLINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL,

Aurora, CO, February 17, 1999.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF: I'm so furious at the government for not listening to us. Last Week 409 people were enslaved because the government did not listen to us. Just like you and me enslaved. Women and children are enslaved. The bad part too is that the government ignored John Eibners warning. He found out that the soldiers were going to raid them. He also sent an urgent appeal to the United Nations.

P.S. We will eradicate slavery.

Love,

JOSHUA FLEMING.

Highline Community School,

Aurora, CO, February 17, 1999.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF: My name is Alphonso Terrell McDonald and I am nine years old. I am a young abolitionist and I am writing to you because I want to tell you about what happened just recently, four hundred-nine slaves were captured and were brought back into slavery because the government is sitting idly by instead of taking a stand. We would like to know if you'd contact the United States Government and let them know what is going on. We would be so grateful if you did this because we want people to be aware of this so they can help us.

The quote that is on the back of our shirts "The greatest sin of our time is not the few who have destroyed, but the vast majority who have sat idly by."

Love,

ALPHONSO.

HIGHLINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL,

Aurora, CO, February 17, 1999.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF: I want to tell you what just happened, there were 409 nice, beautiful, innocent, people put into to slavery.

I almost cried; but I realized if I'm a abolitionist, I can put a stop to this slavery issue! This should not be happening to these people! "These are our people we should stop this slavery!" You can help us by writing letters to the government and tell them to put a stop like all of the abolitionist like Frederick Douglas, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

Love,

CYNTHIA JURANGO.

HIGHLINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL,

Aurora, CO, February 17, 1999.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF: Hi! My name is Heather Pedigo, with a strong urge to fight for freedom of other people! I want to tell you something because of the governments act of turning their back on the issue of slavery, because of that, on February fourth, four hundred and nine people were put into slavery! Just think all of those scared and hurt women and children. We are very ashamed. Please contact us at WWW.Anti-Slavery, or or you can call us at 1-800-804-0719.

Sincerely,

HEATHER PEDIGO.

HIGHLINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL,

Aurora, CO, February 17, 1999.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FRANK: Hi, My name is Christina Manalastas. On February 4th, four hundred nine slaves went into slavery. I'm not happy about what is going on all around the world! It is, of course, the moral thing, when seeing a other human being suffer, to look after them. The person Dalai Lama had said that quote. Here is my quote, "We care about happiness, we care about sadness but we just want to help."

Sincerely,

CHRISTINA MANALASTAS.

P.S. Will you please join us.

HIGHLINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL,

Aurora, CO, February 17, 1999.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF: Hi! From Barb's class. Im a young abolitionist and a fourth grader at Highline. I am in a group that is called S.T.O.P. S.T.O.P is Slavery That Oppresses People. Just last week 409 people went into slavery. The United Nations did not help! I felt so bad! I'm going to eradicate slavery this year! As I was saying on the fourth of February, 1999 John Eibner went to Sudan to warn them about people coming and taking them from their homes. So stand up and do what is right! I will not give up will you? Will you help us stop slavery?

Love,

STACY CARUSO.

DO NOT FORGET ABOUT THE KASHMIRI PANDITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the world witnessed an exciting event last month when India's Prime Minister Vajpayee met with his Pakistani counterpart, Prime Minister Sharif, to inaugurate a new bus service between the two countries.

I applaud Prime Minister Vajpayee's courage in visiting his neighboring country with whom relations have been tense, to put it mildly. But amidst the celebrations about the meeting between the India and the Pakistani prime ministers, a disturbing development from the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir reminds us of what is at stake in the conflict that has hung over the subcontinent for decades.

As the New York Times reported, "On the eve of Mr. Vajpayee's visit to Lahore, Islamic militants, whom Indians generally believe are backed by Pakistan, massacred 20 Hindu civilians in three places in Jammu, part of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, apparently in an attempt to derail the peace efforts. In one case, they opened fire on a wedding party, killing eight celebrants." This is from the New York Times, February 23.

The article noted that Prime Minister Vajpayee did not publicly address the massacres during his visit to Pakistan, perhaps understandable in light of the positive atmosphere that the meeting of the two prime ministers was intended to generate. But Prime Minister Vajpayee stressed that he had warned his Pakistani counterpart that the continued campaign of terrorism against innocent civilians in Jammu and Kashmir is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of Kashmir frequently gets mentioned in the geopolitical calculations over the larger India-Pakistan conflict. There is overwhelming evidence of Pakistani covert support for the continued terror campaign in Jammu and Kashmir. There

has, at the same time, been an overt Pakistani effort to internationalize this issue by bringing the United States, or other world powers and international organizations, into the negotiations. The one aspect of this tragedy that frequently is overlooked is the plight of the Hindu community of this region, the so-called Kashmiri Pandits.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to reiterate my calls for increased American and world attention to the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits, victims of massacres and displacement, such as the atrocity of last month.

As I have gotten to know the Kashmiri-American community and hearing about the situation facing the Kashmiri Pandits, I have become increasingly outraged, not only at the terrible abuses they have suffered but at the seeming indifference of the world community.

At the same time, I am impressed by the dignity and the determination that the Kashmiri Pandits have maintained despite these horrible conditions. I am touched by the deep concern that the Kashmiri-Americans feel for their brothers and sisters living in Kashmir or in the refugee center set up in India to accommodate the Pandits driven from their homes in the Kashmir Valley.

Recently, my colleagues in the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans asked me to co-chair a Task Force on Kashmir. I look forward to working with my colleagues to focus increased Congressional attention on this issue.

Some of my colleagues and I have already been pressing these issues, but clearly we need to give the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits greater recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked India's National Human Rights Commission to consider declaring the Kashmiri Pandits an Internally Displaced People and provide conditions for the safe return of the Pandit community to the Kashmir Valley.

I have also asked the Commission to substantiate the ongoing genocide that the Pandits are suffering. I would also encourage the Indian government to consider officially recognizing the Kashmiri Pandit community as a minority under Indian law to provide additional benefits and protection.

Mr. Speaker, the Kashmiri Pandits have an ancient and a proud culture. Their roots in the Valley run deep. Virtually the entire population of 300,000 Kashmiri Pandits has been forced to leave their ancestral homes and property. Today, only 2,000 Kashmiri Pandits remain in the Valley. Threatened with violence and intimidation, they have been turned into refugees in their own country.

Although Pakistani officials maintain that their country only provides "moral and political support" for the insurgency, evidence shows

that Pakistan has been playing a direct role in arming and training the militants who have converted the Kashmir Valley from an earthly paradise into a living hell.

Last year, I urged Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to raise the Kashmiri Pandit issue whenever Kashmir is discussed by the United States and India. I have also asked the Indian government to bring up the Pandits issue in any bilateral discussion between India and Pakistan.

The United Nations Human Rights Commission also needs to address the Kashmiri Pandit issue, including it in its periodic reports on Kashmir, as well as through the Commission Subcommittee on Minorities. I will also continue urging action by UNICEF to provide educational grants to benefit the Kashmiri Pandit children and the World Health Organization support to improve health and sanitation.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, in the great international debate over arms control and security issues, it is sometimes all too easy to overlook the so-called small problem of one persecuted ethnic group. I just hope that the United States and India, as the world's two largest democracies, will show determination to finally address this humanitarian catastrophe that the Kashmiri Pandits are facing in an effective and humane way.

PROMISES MADE AND PROMISES KEPT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, in 1995, we talked about promises that were made and promises that we needed to keep. We talked specifically about the budget. It is hard to remember, but just 4 years ago, the deficit was nearing \$300 billion. The debt was skyrocketing. What did that mean to Americans? That meant that interest rates on mortgages, on cars, on college loans were soaring through the roof. In fact, it looked like there was no end in sight to deficit after deficit after deficit.

So we stepped up to the challenge. We presented the first plan to balance America's budget in a generation. We heard the President. We heard the Vice President. We heard many Members on the left. We heard the media talking about how balancing the budget under our plan in 7 years would destroy the economy. In fact, that is what the President said.

Well, we did not listen to the naysayers. We fought. We passed our plan. The President still objected. In fact, that fall, he vetoed nine bills, shut down the Federal Government and, as only the President can do, blamed it on us.

Well, we kept the fight alive. Finally, in 1997, amid troubling reports that if

the President did nothing the budget would balance itself, he decided to come to the table and sign the plan that would balance our budget for the first time in a generation.

We listened to Alan Greenspan in 1995. Greenspan said, in 1995, if we followed the Republican plan, the John Kasich plan to balance the budget, we would see unprecedented growth in our time. We would see college loans and interest rates go down. We would see mortgages interest rates going down. We would see economic explosion. Well, we kept our word. We kept the fight alive. Finally, the President came to the table. We signed the plan, and the economy has prospered because of it.

Now, 2 years later, we are again faced with a decision. Do we follow political expediency? Do we follow the easy route that was followed by the Democratic Chamber in this House for 40 years? Do we play the game the way they used to play the game? Or do we keep our word on budgetary issues?

We laid out budget caps in 1997. We said, this is how we are going to run our Federal Government for the next 5 years. It was very simple. The caps were laid out. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) said, this is the way we need to go. Well, I agreed with him then, and I agree with him now.

We have to continue remaining fiscally disciplined. If we do that, we will not only see the economy continue to explode, we will not only continue to see interest rates going down, we will see something else happen that has not happened in Washington for a long time. We will see a group of leaders who are truly respected across the country for keeping their word.

Because, in the end, this is not about a deficit. This is not about budgetary issues. This is about whether our elected leaders in Washington, D.C., say what they mean and mean what they say. Promises made, promises kept. It made sense in 1995, and it makes sense in 1999.

SUDAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, last week, we had Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in front of the Committee on International Relations delivering an address detailing activities of the Department of State over the last year, identifying all of the hot spots in the world where American interests were at stake, identifying what the United States of America was doing about them.

It was intriguing, Mr. Speaker, because, in over half an hour of a normal presentation and certainly maybe 20 or 30 pages of written presentation that discussed in every way all of the issues