

corageous actions, and recognize and thank him for the sacrifices both he and his family have made in the name justice. He is a hero to people of conscience everywhere.

THE ASSASSINATION OF SLAVKO CURUVIJA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 12, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Serbia lost a courageous citizen—one committed to an open society, to a free press, to reporting the truth. Slavko Curuvija was gunned down in front of his Belgrade apartment on Sunday by two men, dressed in black with black face masks. Branka Prpa, who was with him at the time, said that the murderers were certainly professionals. I extend my deepest condolences to her and to all of Slavko's family and friends.

Slavko Curuvija was editor of the independent Serbian newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, as well as the news magazine called *The European*. Though he had ties with Serbia's establishment, this last year he sought his own independent course, and became a leading critic of the Milosevic regime.

Mr. Speaker, last December Slavko Curuvija testified before the Helsinki Commission which I chair. In his testimony, he said:

I come from a country where there is no rule of law . . . By making an example out of me, the regime sends a message to all who would oppose it, intimidating and bullying all the independent media in the process . . . The crackdown on my publications and other media organizations has jeopardized the right to free speech in Serbia. The crackdown on the universities jeopardizes another basic human right, freedom of thought. Belgrade University has been deprived of autonomy, its professors have been sacked for failing to sign loyalty oaths, its students jailed for protecting . . . After all his other wars, Slobodan Milosevic appears to be preparing to wage war against his own people in Serbia and Montenegro.

More recently, on March 8, Slavko Curuvija, was sentenced along with two of his journalists to five months in prison by a Belgrade court for "spreading false reports with an intention to endanger public order," dictator-speak for telling the truth. The three remained free on appeal. When Milosevic used NATO's action against his forces as an excuse to eliminate any remaining independent media, Curuvija chose to shut down operations rather than succumb to state censorship. A week ago, according to today's *Washington Post*, a pro-regime newspaper accused Curuvija of supporting NATO bombing and said that "people like him" will neither be "forgiven nor forgotten."

People like Slavko Curuvija, who act upon their rights and freedoms and promote the protection of those rights, have fought for what is best for their country. Their patriotism is expressed in their opposition to a regime which does not want any independent voice, nor criticism. They see that Serbia only has a future if it becomes a democracy.

I ask the people of Serbia, and Serbs in this country and around the world, to think hard

about what has just happened. If this Milosevic regime is willing to do this to an independent thinker in Belgrade, a Serb, why is it not possible that this same regime can be responsible for the genocides in Bosnia and now in Kosovo? Is it worth rallying around Milosevic, who is President of Yugoslavia only through ruthlessly undemocratic means and who brought this upon Serbia? Can't you see that Milosevic, not Curuvija, wants Serbia to be bombed, because he believes this will enhance his power and somehow justify getting rid of those who advocate freedom? I ask the people of Serbia to take a close look around you. Who has isolated you from a Europe more free and united than ever before? Who has caused your living conditions to be so much less than they had been, or could be? The answer should be clear—Slobodan Milosevic. You must no longer allow his propaganda to succeed in convincing you otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, while we may have differences regarding what the U.S. role should be in stopping the genocide in Kosovo, we should be able to agree on one central point: Slobodan Milosevic is the problem, and he must account for his crimes. In my view, the cold-blooded murder of an independent journalist, Slavko Curuvija, is the latest crime to add to the list.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 1999, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 14

9 a.m.
Judiciary
Immigration Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the Kosovo Refugee Crisis.
SD-226

9:30 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings on education research.
SD-628

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the published scandals plaguing the Olympics.
SD-106

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold closed oversight hearings to examine damage to the national security from Chinese espionage at the Department of Energy nuclear weapons laboratories.
SH-219

Armed Services
Strategic Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2000 for the Department of Defense, focusing on strategic nuclear forces and policy and the future years defense program.
SR-222

Governmental Affairs
To resume hearings on the future of the Independent Counsel Act.
SH-216

YEAR 2000 TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM
To hold hearings on Federal Government Y2K preparedness.
SD-138

Appropriations
Interior Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2000 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior.
SD-124

10 a.m.
Finance
To hold oversight hearings on restructuring and reform of the internal revenue service.
SD-215

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
International Trade and Finance Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the issues relating to the Export Control Process.
SD-538

Foreign Relations
Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings on issues relating to the continuing crisis in Afghanistan.
SD-562

11 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2000 for the Department of Defense, focusing on ballistic missile defense.
SD-192

1:45 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on the implementation of welfare reform for Indians.
SR-485

2 p.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the status of financial management within the Department of Defense.
SR-222

Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters.
SH-219

Judiciary
Constitution, Federalism, and Property Rights Subcommittee
Business meeting to consider S.J. Res. 14, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.
SD-226