

of her children in the United States, simply because of the political activities of her husband.

On August 11, 1999 Rebiya Kadeer was arrested while she was on her way to meet with a group of Congressional Staff visiting China. She was charged in September with "providing secret information to foreigners." Ms. Kadeer does not have access to "state secrets", she is a businesswoman, not a political activist. After seven months of detention and the arrest and subsequent arbitrary sentencing of her secretary and one son, Ms. Kadeer was given a 4-hour trial. During this trial, neither she nor her lawyer were able to speak, none of her children were allowed to attend and the 300 Uighurs who had gathered at the courthouse were dispersed by Chinese police.

This was not a trial. It was a farce. If China wants to be a full partner in the international arena, it has to start abiding by international norms and living within the rule of law. Seven months of arbitrary detention and a trial where the defendant's lawyer is not allowed to speak is not an accepted practice within the international community and should not be an accepted practice in China.

Ms. Kadeer was traveling to meet with congressional staff, official representatives of the U.S. Government, when she was detained. This did not seem to matter to the Chinese and it appears to be one of the factors for the timing of her arrest. Clearly, the Chinese were sending a signal: Any citizen who meets with or talks to United States citizens is risking detention, arrest and a prison sentence.

I call on the Chinese Government to immediately and unconditionally release Rebiya Kadeer, her son, Ablidik Abyirim and her secretary, Kahrman Abdukurim. They have not committed any crimes. Further, I call on the Clinton administration to do everything in its power to secure these releases.

Incidences like this prove that this is not the time to ease the pressure on China. We in the United States, and around the world must never give up our ideals and belief in human freedom, and need to pressure dictators, oppressors and abusers around the world that lack the respect for the rule of law and for human life. Only if Ms. Kadeer's case is brought to the highest level of our Administration and the Chinese Government is there any hope that Ms. Kadeer will not spend the next 8 years of her life in a Chinese prison—8 years she should be spending with her husband and 10 children—and for speaking up for the most basic human rights of her people, the Uighurs.

FOR ITALIANS, "SOPRANOS" IS A  
SOUR NOTE

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is time to end racial and ethnic stereotyping in our national media. While many ethnic groups have been victimized in this way, Italian-Americans have lately been the target of a hit television program about a family of gangsters, titled "Sopranos."

Frankly, all of the Italian-Americans that I know are honest, upstanding citizens who work every day to support their families, to educate their children, and to build their communities. They are blue- and white-collar workers and professionals. They vote, pay taxes, and believe in the American dream that hard work will yield success.

My dear friend and our former colleague in the House of Representatives, the Hon. Frank Guarini, eloquently addressed this issue in a letter to the Wall Street Journal on February 15, 2000.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Feb. 15, 2000]

FOR ITALIANS, "SOPRANOS" HIT A BIG, SOUR  
NOTE

(By Frank J. Guarini)

Eric Gibson's Jan. 28 de gustibus column ("Second Thoughts About a Mob Hit on Sunday Night," Taste page, Weekend Journal) correctly notes that the HBO series "The Sopranos" and others like it have put a slick entertaining face on a subgroup of criminals who rightly deserve society's harshest condemnation. We wish he had taken his criticism one step further, however, and included the harm that programs like "The Sopranos" do to the image of an estimate 20 million Americans of Italian descent.

Thanks to Hollywood and television, Italian Americans see their culture, religion and customs repeatedly used to give "color" to stories about organized crime. As a result of such stereotyping, most Americans believe Italian Americans are prone to the same violent, immoral behavior that "The Sopranos" offers up as entertainment.

The National Italian American Foundation would like to see HBO present Italian-Americans as they really are: as scientists, educators, military and political leaders and entrepreneurs. It's time for the entertainment industry to balance the false and harmful stereotypes of organized crime figures like Tony Soprano and his mob crew by creating Italian American characters who are educated, law-abiding and articulate.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OHIO STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ohio State Fire Marshal's office on its 100th Anniversary, on April 8, 2000.

The Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office is the oldest established State Fire Marshal's Office in the United States. The office is very proud of its history of fire safety. The Ohio State Fire Marshal serves the citizens of Ohio who rely on the safety of the public buildings in the state, including hospitals, nursing homes, and hotels. They serve and train the firefighters of the state, they investigate cases of arson, and they provide fire safety and fire prevention education to the children in Ohio's school system. The mission of the Ohio State Fire Marshal's office is to "focus on education, research, regulation, and enforcement in the area of fire safety and fire prevention."

In order to celebrate this important day and to honor the four living former Ohio Fire Mar-

shals, the Fire Marshal's office has planned a Fire Service Exposition on April 8, 2000. Included in the day's festivities will be safety performances by Ohio firefighters and demonstrations by the Ohio arson dogs, as well as interactive children's activities and historical firefighting exhibitions. The Expo will also honor fallen firefighters with a "last call" and bagpipe tribute.

The Fire Marshal plays an important role in preserving the safety of all the citizens of the state of Ohio. Please join me in honoring the Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was regretfully absent on Tuesday, March 21, 2000, and consequently missed two recorded votes. Both were conducted under suspension of the rules. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: H. Con. Res. 288, vote No. 56, "yea"; H. Res. 182, vote No. 57, "yea."

### PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

#### HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following article to accompany the speech I gave on March 16, 2000.

[From the Washington Times, Mar. 16, 2000]

PROPERTY OWNERS DUE A HEARING

(By Nancie G. Marzulla)

In 1992, Bernadine Suitum faced the ultimate nightmare for a homeowner. When she was ready to build a retirement house on a lot she and her late husband bought years earlier, she was informed that the property, in the middle of the bustling Incline Village subdivision, suddenly was deemed part of a "stream environment zone."

This meant she could not build because a government regulation, imposed after she and her husband had bought the property, required the lot to remain open space. Mrs. Suitum sued the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) for compensation for her property, as the Fifth Amendment explicitly requires in such instances. TRPA argued that her case was not "ripe" for court review because there had not been a final agency action.

After six years of bitter litigation, the elderly Mrs. Suitum was carried in her wheelchair into the U.S. Supreme Court—not to be compensated for her property, but merely to win the right to have her case declared ripe for court review. During oral argument, Justice O'Connor turned to the government attorney and asked incredulously, "Why can't you just let this poor woman have her day in court?"

The House of Representatives is expected to vote on the same question today. H.R. 2372, the Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 1999, was referred out of the