

of 2005, H.R. 972. This bill would reauthorize appropriations for anti-trafficking programs here and abroad. The bill also offers solutions to a number of specific scenarios in which trafficking is a problem, but which our experience has shown could benefit from additional initiatives. Our witnesses at today's hearing will focus on some of these issues and I will mention just a few here.

For example, drawing lessons from the aftermath of war in the Balkans a decade ago, and the devastating tsunami in South Asia a mere few months ago, foreign policy and humanitarian aid professionals increasingly recognize the heightened vulnerability of indigenous populations in crisis situations to many forms of violence, including trafficking for sexual and labor exploitation. Traffickers also recognize this vulnerability. This bill would focus governmental efforts, particularly by the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Department of Defense, to develop trafficking prevention strategies for post-conflict and humanitarian emergency situations—strategies which do not currently exist in sufficient form.

The bill would also take further steps to ensure that U.S. Government personnel and contractors are held accountable for involvement with acts of trafficking in persons while abroad on behalf of the U.S. Government. Although few would dispute that the involvement of U.S. personnel, including members of the U.S. Armed Forces, with trafficking in persons in any form is inconsistent with U.S. laws and policies and undermines the credibility and mission of U.S. Government programs in foreign countries, there remain loopholes in U.S. laws which allow such acts to go unpunished. This bill closes those loopholes by expanding U.S. criminal jurisdiction for serious offenses to all U.S. Government contractors abroad—jurisdiction which already exists with respect to contractors supporting Department of Defense missions abroad—and by making federal criminal laws against sex and labor trafficking applicable to members of the Armed Forces. The bill would also direct the Secretary of Defense to designate a director of anti-trafficking policies to guide DOD's efforts to faithfully implement policies against trafficking.

The bill would take on the outrageous situation of peacekeepers, humanitarian aid workers, and international organizations' personnel, being complicit in trafficking and sexual exploitation. On March 2nd, I chaired a hearing in this Subcommittee that examined the evidence of gross sexual misconduct and exploitation of refugees and vulnerable people by U.N. peacekeepers and civilian personnel assigned to the U.N. peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Human rights groups and the U.N.'s own internal investigations have U.N. covered over 150 allegations against Mission personnel involving sexual contact with Congolese women and girls, usually in exchange for food or small sums of money, as well as allegations of rape, forced prostitution, and demands of sex for jobs. However, to date, there has not been one successful prosecution of U.N. civilian or military personnel, either in the Congo or elsewhere.

The scandal with the U.N. Mission in the Congo is but the latest in a long list of allegations against international peacekeeping per-

sonnel involving sex trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation that extends back at least a decade. The involvement of peacekeepers in trafficking or sexual exploitation is not just a private matter involving only personal moral choices. Hundreds of vulnerable women and children are being re-victimized; the reputation of the United Nations is being badly damaged; and lack of internal discipline is compromising security and effectiveness of the peacekeeping operations.

To his credit, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan has promulgated a "zero tolerance" policy on sexual exploitation by peacekeepers. In June 2004, NATO also adopted an anti-trafficking policy. But words alone do not protect women and children from abuse. H.R. 972 would require that the Secretary of State certify prior to endorsing an international peacekeeping mission that the international organization has taken measures to prevent and, as necessary, hold accountable peacekeepers in the mission who are involved with trafficking or sexual exploitation. The bill would also require that the annual Trafficking in Persons Report include information on steps taken by international organizations to eliminate involvement of the organizations' personnel in trafficking.

The bill also continues to improve upon the provision of assistance to foreign victims in the United States by improving trafficking victims' access to information about federally funded victim services programs and facilitating access to counsel for victims. The bill would also establish a guardian ad litem program for child trafficking victims of trafficking.

H.R. 972 also recognizes that trafficking in persons occurs within the borders of single countries, including the United States. According to the State Department, if the number of people trafficked internally within countries is added to the estimate, the total number of trafficking victims annually would be in the range of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000. Although outside the jurisdiction of this subcommittee, I would just mention that the bill addresses the trafficking of American citizens and nationals within the United States—which the bill defines as "domestic trafficking." Although there are no precise statistics on the numbers of United States citizens or nationals who have been victimized through trafficking, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania have estimated that 100,000 to 300,000 children in the United States are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation, including trafficking, at any given time.

Despite the willingness of most governments today to address international trafficking, few have recognized the existence of internal trafficking within their own borders. By addressing internal trafficking in a bill that also addresses international trafficking, the United States will again lead by example in showing that internal trafficking victims must not be dismissed by the law enforcement community as prostitutes or juvenile delinquents. This bill would begin to shift the paradigm—much as we have done so successfully in the international arena—to view these exploited souls for what they really are—victims of crime and sexually exploited children.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH PALM BEACH

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Town of South Palm Beach, Florida. Since 1992, I have had the distinct pleasure to represent the residents of this lovely community, and would like to share with you some of the town's attributes and history.

Located in Palm Beach County, the Town of South Palm Beach is nestled in one of Florida's many barrier islands. Rich in natural beauty, South Palm Beach shares its eastern border with the Atlantic Ocean, and its western border with the Florida Intracoastal Waterway.

The town's colorful history dates back to 1948, when two Finnish brothers from New York, Amos and Anton Askila, settled in the area. Enamored with South Florida's beauty, the Askila brothers set out for Tallahassee in 1955 to obtain a charter for the town. At the time, there were only 6 full time residents, including the Askila brothers, Robert Coletti, James Sloan and Mr. and Mrs. George Woods. The Askila brothers successfully incorporated the town during their 1955 trip to Tallahassee and, that same year, Mr. George Woods was elected as South Palm Beach's first mayor.

Today, reflecting on 50 years of history since the town's incorporation, it is clear that future generations of South Floridians have much for which to be thankful. Over the years, South Palm Beach's residents have worked diligently to preserve its residential character, friendly atmosphere and overall high quality of life. I also know that South Palm Beach's nearly 3,000 residents are working hard every day to carry on this tradition, ensuring that South Palm Beach continues to serve as a model community for other towns throughout Florida.

On behalf of Florida's 22nd Congressional District, in honor of the town's 50th anniversary celebration, I wish to recognize and commend the Town of South Palm Beach for its longstanding commitment to excellence in South Florida.

INTRODUCTION OF BIPARTISAN
RESOLUTION ON JUÁREZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce this bipartisan resolution with my colleagues Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. REYES, and Mr. LANTOS.

Since 1993, over 400 mutilated bodies have been found in the desert of Ciudad Juárez and the city of Chihuahua. We are deeply concerned about the murders and violence

against women that have occurred and condemn these horrific acts of violence.

This Resolution expresses our deepest sympathy to the families of the women killed in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico; requests that the Mexican government's investigative and preventative efforts be incorporated into the bilateral agenda between Mexico and the United States; urges the President and Secretary of State to express concern for the harassment of the families and support for the victims' families as they seek justice; and condemns the use of torture as a means of investigation into these crimes. It also urges the State of Chihuahua to ensure fair and proper judicial proceedings for the individuals accused of these murders, which is critical in eradicating these injustices. The resolution also expresses the solidarity of the people of the United States with the people of Mexico in the face of these tragic and senseless acts.

THE WALNUT CANYON STUDY ACT OF 2005

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2005.

The Walnut Canyon National Monument was originally designated by Presidential proclamation on November 30, 1915, to protect Sinaguan cliff dwellings. Since the original designation, the Walnut Canyon National Monument has been expanded to include 3,580 acres to protect additional ruins adjacent to the Monument.

In the past few years, several groups have proposed expanding the Monument with surrounding Forest Service land and designating this expanded area as a National Park. To further explore the options of the Walnut Canyon National Monument and potential inclusion of this expanded area, along with Senator MCCAIN, I have introduced the Walnut Canyon Study Act.

The Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2005 directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study on the management of certain land adjacent to the Walnut Canyon National Monument.

Coconino County and the City of Flagstaff have both passed resolutions supporting further review and study of the management options for the Walnut Canyon National Monument. In both resolutions, support for maintaining certain public uses in the Monument was relayed, as well as the need for the protection of the resources in the Monument.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides for public input into any recommendation that is forwarded by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. Within the study, the legislation requires the Secretaries to look at the management objectives of the Forest Service and the National Park Service, as well as the opportunities for maintaining existing public uses, such as grazing, hunting, mountain biking, rock climbing and additional forms of recreation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2005. My

intent in introducing this legislation is to help resolve the question of future management of the Walnut Canyon National Monument.

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 Thursday, March 10, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 11

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of R. Nicholas Burns, of Massachusetts, to be an Under Secretary of State, C. David Welch, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Assistant Secretary of State, and John B. Bellinger, of Virginia, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

SD-419

MARCH 14

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee

Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine strengthening enforcement and border security, focusing on the 9/11 Commission staff report on terrorist travel.

SD-226

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To resume hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements from combatant commanders in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SD-106

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Thomas Schieffer, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Japan, Joseph R. DeTrani, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six Party Talks, and Howard J. Krongard,

of New Jersey, to be Inspector General, Department of State.

SD-419

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Labor.

SD-124

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine school nutrition programs.

SH-216

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to examine ensuring the success of the National Security Personnel System, focusing on the proposed regulations jointly published by the Department of Defense and Office of Personnel Management for the National Security Personnel System.

SD-342

Judiciary

Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the OPEN Government Act of 2005 relating to openness in government and freedom of information.

SD-226

Aging

To hold hearings to examine exploring the economics of retirement.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the SBC/ATT and Verizon/MCI mergers relating to remaking the telecommunications industry.

SD-226

Appropriations

Military Construction Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Department of Veterans Affairs budget overview.

SD-138

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 175, to establish the Bleeding Kansas and Enduring Struggle for Freedom National Heritage Area, S. 322, to establish the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership in the States of Vermont and New York, S. 323, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the French Colonial Heritage Area in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System, and S. 429, to establish the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SD-366

MARCH 16

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-138