

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN EGYPT

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my concerns and outrage over human rights abuses in Egypt.

The Egyptian Government must uphold the rights of all religious communities by ending discrimination and harassment of these groups and prosecuting those that do harm to these groups.

An attack that happened 2 weeks ago starkly illustrates the need for change in Egypt. On January 6, the night before Coptic Christmas, a drive-by shooting killed six Coptic Christians. While the United States and the human rights community have been vocal in condemning this attack and other human rights abuses, the Egyptian Government has yet to recognize the full significance of the violent act or the overreaching issue of intolerance in the country.

Violence in the name of religion is unacceptable, but when governments do not sufficiently address such behavior, the violence is far more troubling. Religion is a fundamental freedom that must be upheld and respected in every nation and in every community. I urge my colleagues and the House to join me in calling for religious freedom and basic rights for all people.

MILITARY TRIBUNALS FOR
TERRORISTS ACT

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, this week, I introduced legislation that requires terrorists to be tried in military courts. The American people are outraged that foreign terrorists that are waging war against the United States are being treated as common criminals. The al Qaeda-trained Nigerian terrorist accused of trying to blow up Flight 253 on Christmas Day—I was in Detroit that day—is only the latest example of this misguided policy.

The mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks is going on trial in New York City, just blocks from Ground Zero. Even the New York Democratic Governor disagrees with this approach.

Putting terrorists on trial before military tribunals has many benefits, including the fact that sensitive U.S. intelligence sources and methods will be protected. I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support and cosponsor the Military Tribunal for Terrorists Act.

EXPRESSING THANKS TO THE
VOLUNTEERS IN IOWA

(Mr. LOEBSACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the volunteers who have worked and continue to work in the flood-ravaged community of Cedar Rapids and all throughout Iowa.

On Monday, Martin Luther King Day, we observed a national day of service and volunteerism. I had the honor of working alongside a number of volunteers in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It is the efforts, dedication, and a sense of shared community like I experienced on Monday that is the heart and soul of Iowa, and indeed our great Nation.

While I have been able to work with Congress to provide supplemental disaster assistance toward flood recovery, it is the volunteers from not only Iowa, but all over the country who have offered their hearts and time and made a truly monumental impact in our State. Thank you again, volunteers, for all you do.

INTERNATIONAL CHILD
ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, my constituent, Deana Hebert, last saw her then 18-month-old daughter, Bianca Lozano, on April 7, 1995. Bianca's father, Juan Lozano, took her for a scheduled child custody visit and then abducted her to Mexico. That was almost 15 years ago.

I was shocked to learn that there are over 950 open reports of U.S. citizen children being taken into Mexico by a parent. No parent should ever go through Deana's nightmare. That is why I have been working with all levels of government to urge cooperation with Mexico and allow this mother to see her child again.

Congress should pass H.R. 3240, the International Child Abduction Prevention Act of 2009, which would establish an Office on International Child Abductions within the State Department. I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, which would strengthen the tools we have available to ensure that children like Bianca Lozano know they have a mother who loves them and come home.

THE LONG VIEW ON JOB
CREATION

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as we consider new job initiatives to create more jobs for unemployed Americans, the Joint Economic Committee will be producing a series of charts over the next few weeks to help us better understand the economic missteps that led and contributed to this great recession.

This chart goes back to 1992, the year that President Clinton was elected. It shows that during his time there was very robust job creation in the private sector, and then during the Bush years it fell dramatically. This dark line is the job creation, going up during the Clinton years, falling dramatically under the Bush administration. It also shows that Democrats have been considerably more effective at creating private-sector jobs.

Economic reality was actually even worse than this chart shows. As Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz has pointed out, job creation during the Bush administration was fueled by a bubble that inflated housing prices and spurred consumption and hiring, and when that bubble burst, the bottom fell out.

We owe it to the millions of unemployed who fell victim to the failed economic policies of the past to invest in Democratic job creation policies that have actually put people back to work in the private sector.

EPA POWER GRAB

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, while efforts to tax energy production have failed because of overwhelming public opposition, the Environmental Protection Agency quietly perpetrated one of the largest power grabs ever.

A little-noticed decision last year expanded the definition of "air pollutant" in the Clean Air Act to include greenhouse gases. This means the Federal Government now has the authority to regulate everything from carbon dioxide to water vapor. As a result, every living person is now a source of pollution from exhaling CO₂ and water vapor. Every breath you take, every word you utter is now subject to EPA regulations.

The American people need room to breathe; so I have sponsored H.R. 391 to do just that. I hope my colleagues will join me because the hot air that comes out of this Chamber would qualify us as a Superfund site.

HONORING NGUOI-VIET DAILY
NEWS FOR ITS 31 YEARS OF
SERVICE IN LITTLE SAIGON

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nguoi-Viet Daily News for its 31 years of media service in Orange County, California. Nguoi-Viet Daily News was the first and the largest daily newspaper published in Vietnamese in the United States, and it was founded by Mr. Do Ngoc Yen in 1978.