

THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF  
NAGORNO KARABAKH

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, February 20, 2005 will mark the 17th anniversary of the modern day liberation movement of the people of the Nagorno Karabakh (NK). Seventeen years ago the people of NK petitioned the Soviet government to correct historical injustices and reunite them with their compatriots in Armenia.

The Armenians of NK were placed within the borders of Azerbaijan in 1921, as one of many ethnic groups there were separated by Joseph Stalin through his "divide and conquer" strategy. Armenians of NK were subjected to brutal Soviet Azerbaijani rule for 70 years.

It is imperative that we recognize the fact that NK's referendum to secede from Azerbaijan in 1988 was pursuant to Soviet law. NK was already operating as an autonomous region and therefore had the right and the power to secede if they chose to.

In fact, during the seven decades of Soviet rule, the Armenians of NK repeatedly stated to each successive Soviet regime their desire to be joined again with Armenia. These peaceful and legal maneuvers were met with violent repression and forced settlement of ethnic Azeris into NK.

In 1988, when the Armenians of NK heard of the Mikhail Gorbachev's democratization agenda, they began to again move peacefully for reunification with Armenia. At this time, the Soviet and Azeri armies would not stand even to entertain this request and immediately resorted to violence. Public expressions of determination by the Armenians of NK were met with a campaign of ethnic cleansing, deporting the Armenians of NK and Azerbaijan.

In 1991, as Armenia and Azerbaijan followed most soviet states in succession from the USSR, NK also voted to succeed. In an internationally monitored referendum, the NK population overwhelmingly voted to establish an independent Nagorno Karabakh Republic, currently known as NKR.

Following this referendum in which the country was established, the Azeri army began a full-scale war on the Armenians of NK, which took thousands of lives over 3 years, but eventually ended up with NKR repelling Azeri forces. This victory was gained with an army that was out-manned and out-gunned, but had desire and guile that proved to be overwhelming. This conflict had a terrific human cost, leaving 30,000 dead and over one million displaced. Thankfully, although small skirmishes have broken out from time to time, the peace has been kept since an agreement ceased hostilities in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I have repeatedly come to the House floor to speak of the plight of the Armenians of NKR. I can now speak from personal experience about NKR, having traveled there. I had the opportunity to travel to NKR to witness the Presidential elections there, where we served as official monitors. I am proud to say that all election observers that participated in this historic event gave an overwhelmingly positive response. One group in particular, headed by the Baroness Cox from England

stated that, "Our overall conclusion is one of congratulations to all the people of Artsakh (NKR) for the spirit in which the elections have been conducted, their commitment to the democratic process and their pride in their progress towards the establishment of civil society."

This process is astounding considering that NKR is not recognized internationally; that they still must deal every day with Azeri aggression, and that their economy is still devastated from the war. The elections were reported to have met, if not exceeded international standards. All this just 9 short years removed from all-out war.

Congress recognized this consistent move towards democracy, granting NKR \$20 million in humanitarian assistance in FY '97, an additional \$5 million in FY '03 and \$3 million just last year. This assistance has not just been crucial for needs of the people of NKR, but has also fostered the beginnings of an excellent relationship between our two countries.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to end with a final example of what I saw during my visit to NKR. During the elections, as I visited the capitol city and small villages alike, everyone I spoke to was incredibly excited about the prospect of voting. They viewed the vote not only as a choice of the leader of their country for the next 5 years, but a statewide referendum on the democratic process and independence of NKR.

I congratulate the people of NKR for the 17th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Liberation movement and their incredible determination to establish a free and open democratic society.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, which is intended to improve the United States' efforts in combating the scourge of human trafficking. I am pleased to be joined as original cosponsors by Representative LANTOS, Ranking Member of the International Relations Committee, Representative PAYNE, Ranking Member of the International Relations Subcommittee on Global Human Rights, International Operations and Africa, Majority Whip Representative BLUNT, Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Committee Chairman Representative WOLF, Helsinki Commission Ranking Member Representative CARDIN, Representative ROS-LEHTINEN, Chair of the International Relations Subcommittee on Middle East and Central Asia, and Representatives PENCE, PITTS, and FALCONE.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Government now estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 women, children and men are bought and sold across international borders each year and exploited through forced labor or commercial sex exploitation. An estimated 80 percent of the victims of this barbaric trade are women and girls.

Congress and President Bush have demonstrated unprecedented international leader-

ship in combating human trafficking through enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003. Since taking office, the Bush Administration has devoted more than \$295 million to combat trafficking worldwide.

Under the framework of the TVPA, the United States Government's efforts to combat trafficking in persons have focused primarily on international trafficking in persons, including the trafficking of an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 foreign citizens into the United States each year.

Across the globe, governments are taking action to prevent trafficking, to prosecute the exploiters and to give hope and restoration to those victimized by trafficking. Between 2003 and 2004, twenty-four countries enacted new laws to combat trade in human lives. Dozens more are in the process of drafting or passing such laws. Moreover, nearly 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide and 2,800 were convicted. This bill would support the ongoing efforts that have made these gains possible by reauthorizing 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 would benefit from additional initiatives. 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 and others subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The bill would also direct the Secretary of Defense to designate a director of anti-trafficking policies who would guide DOD's efforts to faithfully implement applicable policies against trafficking.

The bill would also take on the outrageous situation of military and civilian peacekeepers, humanitarian aid workers, and international organizations' personnel, from complicity in trafficking and sexual exploitation in connection

with international peacekeeping operations. To cite but the most recent examples of this, in December, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan admitted that U.N. peacekeepers and staff have sexually abused or exploited war refugees in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Among the 150 or so allegations of misconduct are instances of sexually abusing children, rape, and prostitution. On January 28, a senior official with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees was arrested for sexual abuse of minors and trafficking in Kosovo. The long list of allegations against international peacekeeping personnel involving sex trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation extends back at least a decade and yet the United Nations and most other international organizations have failed to take sufficient action to end this abuse.

To his credit, Kofi Annan has promulgated a "zero tolerance" policy on sexual exploitation by peacekeepers. But words alone do not protect women and children from abuse. Earlier this week, President Bush asked Congress for \$780,000,000 to pay for contributions to international peacekeeping activities this fiscal year. He has requested more than \$1 billion for next year. Prior to writing this check, the bill I am introducing would require that the Secretary of State no longer accept words alone as evidence that the United Nations, NATO, and other multilateral organizations are taking seriously the responsibility to address trafficking and exploitation by peacekeepers. The bill would require that the Secretary of State certify, prior to endorsing an international peacekeeping mission, that measures have been taken to prevent and, as necessary, hold accountable peacekeepers in the mission who are involved with trafficking or illegal sexual exploitation.

In addition to a host of other measures to address trafficking overseas and to aid foreign victims in the United States, the bill 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.

This bill would address the trafficking of American citizens and nationals within the borders of the United States—which the bill defines as "domestic trafficking." There are no precise statistics on the numbers of United States citizens or nationals who have been victimized through trafficking, but there is great reason for concern. It is well documented, for example, that runaway and homeless children are highly susceptible to trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. Every day in our country, between 1,300,000 and 2,800,000 runaway and homeless youth live on the streets. 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 in the United States, including trafficking, at any given time.

To date, U.S. victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation have been dismissed by the law enforcement community, particularly at the State and local levels, as prostitutes. Child victims are dealt with as 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.

The bill I am introducing would begin the process of developing a comprehensive strategy to prevent the victimization of U.S. citizens and nationals through domestic trafficking. It would require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to undertake a study and then a program to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts in the United States, which in turn fuels trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. The bill would also authorize HHS to make grants to expand services to victims of domestic trafficking, with a priority for NGOs with experience in caring for victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

NGOs who work with trafficked children in the United States have indicated time and again that a lack of housing options for such children is a debilitating impediment to providing effective rehabilitative and restorative help. In response, this bill would require HHS to carry out a pilot program for residential treatment facilities for minor victims of domestic trafficking and authorizes the appropriation of \$10,000,000 over 2 years for this purpose.

The bill would ensure that communities in the United States are fully informed about the presence of sex offenders in those communities. The bill would require that state sex offender registries include convictions in foreign court of a sexually violent offense, or a criminal offense against a child victim. The bill would also enhance State and local efforts to combat trafficking through a grants program to encourage the investigation and prosecution of domestic trafficking cases and the development of collaboration between law enforcement agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 would address these and many other areas of concern, would authorize funding to continue our government's efforts against trafficking, and would build upon the experience of implementing the TVPA to refine U.S. laws and practices to better fulfill the intent of that law.

In summary, the TVPRA of 2005 would address trafficking in persons in foreign countries and the trafficking of foreigners into the United States by:

Incorporating trafficking prevention activities in post-conflict and humanitarian emergency relief programs conducted by the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Department of Defense;

Requiring that sex offender registries, as established by the Jacob Wetterling Act and Megan's Law, include convictions in foreign courts;

Improving trafficking victims' access to information about federally funded victim services programs and facilitating access to counsel for victims;

Establishing a guardian ad litem program for child victims of trafficking;

Requiring USAID to establish in two foreign locations a pilot program of long-term residential rehabilitation facilities for victims of trafficking and authorizing \$2.5 million for 2 years for this purpose.

Expanding U.S. criminal jurisdiction for felony offenses committed by contractors working abroad for Federal agencies;

Amending the Uniform Code of Military Justice to create punitive provisions for sex and

labor trafficking by members of the U.S. Armed Forces;

Expanding the ability to prosecute traffickers for money laundering;

Amending the Protect Act to require U.S. Embassies to seek local prosecution or extradition of American citizens who commit sex crimes overseas.

Appointing the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Director of National Intelligence to the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking;

Requiring that the Attorney General's annual report to Congress include data on the number of trafficking victims identified, and benefits granted, with respect to each trafficking case prosecuted by the Department of Justice;

Refining criteria for determining, in the context of the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, whether a government is making "serious and sustained efforts" to eliminate trafficking: (1) whether the government is taking measures to prevent its nationals from engaging in trafficking during peacekeeping operations, and (2) whether the government is implementing measures to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts and participation in international sex tourism;

Expressing the need for research into the linkage between trafficking and the financing of terrorism; trafficking and HIV/AIDS; the development of an effective mechanism for quantifying the number of victims of trafficking; and the enslavement of children for use as soldiers;

Requiring that human rights training for Foreign Service Officers include instruction about trafficking in persons;

Requiring that the annual Trafficking in Persons Report include information on steps taken by the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other international organizations to eliminate involvement of the organizations' personnel in trafficking;

Requiring the Secretary of State to certify prior to endorsing an international peacekeeping mission that measures have been taken to prevent the peacekeepers from being involved with trafficking. The bill would prohibit the United States from providing logistical support or personnel in support of a peacekeeping mission until this certification is received unless the Secretary provides (a) an explanation as to the steps taken by the U.S. to encourage the international organization to take appropriate measures to prevent trafficking, and (b) a certification that endorsing the mission is in the national interests of the U.S., notwithstanding the failure of the international organization to address trafficking;

Directing the Secretary of Defense to designate within the Office of the Secretary of Defense a director of anti-trafficking policies;

Directing the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate acts of trafficking.

The bill also provides for new initiatives to combat the trafficking of U.S. citizens and nationals within the United States by:

Requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services to prepare a report of best practices for reducing the demand for commercial sex acts, which demands feed into the demand for trafficking into prostitution, to post the report on the HHS website, and to establish and carry out programs to implement these practices;

Requires that all U.S. Government grants, contracts or cooperative agreements with private entities contain a clause authorizing termination if the grantee, subgrantee, contractor or subcontractor (a) engages in severe forms of trafficking in persons or has procured a commercial sex act during the period of time that the grant, contract or cooperative agreement is in effect, or (b) uses forced labor in the performance of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement. Since 2003 this requirement has been in place for international grants, contracts and cooperative agreements;

Authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to make grants to expand services to victims of domestic trafficking;

Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to carry out a pilot program for residential treatment facilities for minor victims of domestic trafficking and authorizes the appropriation of \$5,000,000 for 2 years for this purpose;

Enhances state and local efforts to combat trafficking through a grants program to encourage the investigation and prosecution of domestic trafficking cases and the development of collaboration between law enforcement agencies and nongovernmental organizations;

Improves Interagency Coordination to Combat Domestic Trafficking by allowing the Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to participate in the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Reauthorizes appropriations for fiscal years 2006 and 2007:

\$5.5 million to the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking; \$3,000 in representation funds;

\$15 million to the Department of Health and Human Services;

To the Secretary of State, \$10 million for assistance for victims in other countries; \$10 million for programs to improve law enforcement and prosecution; and \$10 million for trafficking prevention initiatives;

\$15 million to the Department of Justice for assistance to victims in the United States; and \$250,000 for anti-trafficking training activities at the International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEAs);

\$15 million to the President for foreign victim assistance (prevention activities); \$15 million for assistance to foreign countries to meet the minimum standards to combat trafficking; \$300,000 for research; and \$250,000 for anti-trafficking training activities at the ILEAs; and

\$10 million to the Department of Labor;

\$15 million, for FY06 only, to provide additional resources to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate international and domestic trafficking cases.

Mr. Speaker, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its reauthorization in 2003 enjoyed bi-partisan support in both Houses of Congress. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill and enhance the good work underway to combat international trafficking in persons and to ensure that our government's response to all who are victimized by trafficking—whether foreign citizens or United States citizens—is one of deep compassion.

A BILL TO ALLOW FOR PRIORITY IN THE ISSUANCE OF IMMIGRANT VISAS TO SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS

### HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce a bill that will provide for the expedited reunification of the families of our Filipino World War II veterans who have become citizens of the United States.

This body has many times over recognized the courage and commitment of the Filipino troops who fought alongside our armed forces in the Philippines during World War II. In 1990, we provided a waiver from certain naturalization requirements for these veterans, and many thereafter became proud citizens and residents of our country. Most recently, in the 108th Congress, we provided a long-delayed and long-denied measure of justice by granting them a partial measure of veterans benefits which were unjustly denied to them in 1946.

But a huge gap still remains, for we did not allow naturalization in 1990 to the children of these same veterans. What my bill does is allow for the sons and daughters of those veterans that became U.S. citizens through the process established in 1990 to have priority in their respective immigration categories.

These are real-life issues, for the stories of families who have waited years, even decades, to be reunited are heartbreaking. For example, a veteran and his wife living in Hawai'i filed immigration petitions for two of their six adult children; they have waited over ten years for a visa to be issued to either. Another veteran petitioned successfully for his wife's immigration visa, but has not been as successful with the applications for their five adult children. Again, this family has been holding on for ten years with the hope that they will one day live in the U.S. as a complete family.

As we all know, our Filipino World War II veterans are entering the sunset years of their lives. We have addressed some small measure of the need to give adequate veterans benefits for their commendable service. I look forward to working with my colleagues in recognizing and providing for the reunification of these families of our Filipino World War II veterans.

TSUNAMI RELIEF IN THE EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

### HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to victims of the tsunami and to the spirit of giving that remains strong in the United States today. The devastation felt by so many Asian and African families was felt around the world, from Aceh to Illinois.

My constituents in the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois have already raised more than \$45,000 to help rebuild communities in Southeast Asia. Our schools, churches, banks, local aid organizations and local officials have

banded together to collect a steady stream of donations.

However, their work is not finished. On February 19th, in conjunction with other local officials, Lake Villa Mayor Frank Loffredo has organized a tsunami relief fundraiser and auction expected to dramatically increase the current total of donations. He will be assisted by the generous support of the following officials: Antioch Township Supervisor Steve Smouse, Grant Township Supervisor Kay Starostovic, Lake Villa Township Supervisor Daniel Venturi, Fox Lake Mayor Nancy Koske, Round Lake Beach Mayor Rich Hill, Lake County Board Chairman Suzi Schmidt of Lake Villa and County Board members Judy Martini of Antioch, Bonnie Thomson Carter of Ingleside and Bob Powers of Round Lake Beach, State Reps. JoAnn Osmond of Antioch and Robert Churchill of Hainesville, State Sen. Adeline Geo-Karis of Zion and the Lindenhurst/Lake Villa Chamber of Commerce. All proceeds will be donated to the Tsunami Reconstruction fund through the United Way of Lake County.

In addition, Lindenhurst Mayor Jim Betustak, along with Charter One Bank, First American Bank, First Midwest Bank, North Shore Trust & Savings, State Bank of the Lakes and State Financial Bank, founded an effort called "Banking on Your Support." At the end of the month, the Village of Lindenhurst will send proceeds to the American Red Cross.

But, of special note, I am particularly proud of the students who have joined in the relief effort. Such displays of compassion, empathy and perspective serve as a model to us all. This demonstration of courage and goodwill by our young people suggests a bright future for northern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in remembering the tsunami victims and in thanking the citizens of the United States and of the Eighth District of Illinois for their generosity and caring. While the devastation wreaked upon Asia and East Africa will be remembered for years to come, we, in turn, must also remember the caring and kindness of our own citizens in response.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EARL NEAL

### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to honor and pay tribute to Mr. Earl Neal, a lawyer from my hometown whose untimely death on February 13, 2005, has left a void in the halls and the streets of Chicago.

My deepest sympathies go out to his wife Isobel Hoskins Neal, his son Langdon Neal and the rest of his extended family. Although his presence will be sorely missed, the contributions he left behind are considered hallmark treasures of Chicago.

The Dan Ryan Expressway, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the United Center, U.S. Cellular field and the Midway Expansion Centers were all made possible as a result of Neal's strategic counsel and vast knowledge. His contributions serve as main thoroughfares to Chicago and home to the city's sports teams. Working diligently to ensure that all parties walked away winners, there was no greater team player than Earl Neal.