

Antonio Godínez López, head of the Association for the Promotion and Development of the Community, an organization that opposes CAFTA, received a death threat. The next day, Alvaro Juárez, a human rights leader who worked with Alliance for Life and Peace and with the Association of the Displaced of the Petén, was assassinated. On July 11, five journalists were attacked with machetes by ex-civil patrol members. Ileana Alamilla, the President of the Association of Journalists of Guatemala, has warned that journalists are in increasing danger and that the government needs to take steps to protect them. These are only a few examples of the types of incidents that are common in Guatemala today.

A recent report indicates that the number of women murdered and sexually abused in Guatemala has also increased. As of mid-July, 326 women have been murdered this year in Guatemala, a country of only 14 million people. While the report suggests causes such as clandestine groups, ultimately it concludes that the lack of investigations and convictions, in other words, impunity, are at the root of the problem.

The Guatemalan Government also needs to more effectively address the agrarian conflicts by seeking greater input from indigenous and campesino organizations. I have been concerned with the government's support for land evictions, and the national police's role in the destruction of crops and houses of members campesino organizations. This explosive issue may worsen if President Berger does not find more effective ways to address the legitimate needs of landless people.

We should all be encouraged by the recent announcement that Anders Kompass will be heading the newly established office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Guatemala. Having gained wide respect for his work in OHCHR offices in Colombia and Mexico, Mr. Kompass brings a wealth of expertise to Guatemala. I would hope that the State Department provides funds to help support this office.

Since 1990, the Congress has prohibited foreign military financing assistance for Guatemala because of the military's involvement in gross violations of human rights, and the lack of accountability for heinous crimes. The Senate continued that prohibition recently due to ongoing concerns with the inadequate pace of military reform. It is all too apparent that despite the downsizing of the military, the attitude that the military remains above the law has yet to change.

However, we do provide the Guatemalan military with expanded international military education and training assistance. In addition, we continue to provide counter-narcotics assistance. And this year we released prior year military assistance funds to address urgent equipment needs for drug

interdiction, such as spare parts for aircraft.

Guatemala is at a crossroads. No one should be under any illusions about the difficulties of the many political, economic and social challenges it faces. Reform of Guatemala's corrupt and dysfunctional judicial system alone will take many years. But while President Berger has made progress, the culture of violence and impunity continues to thrive in Guatemala. And until there is clear evidence that he is more vigorously and effectively confronting the powerful interests that are responsible for these problems, it will be difficult if not impossible for the United States to support the Guatemalan Government as strongly as we would like to.

COMBATING TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise to draw attention to the widespread problem of human trafficking. It is the world's fastest growing criminal enterprise. It is a modern-day form of slavery, involving victims who are forced, defrauded or coerced into sexual or labor exploitation. Annually, nearly 1 million people, mostly women and children, are trafficked worldwide, including nearly 18,000 persons into the United States.

The fact is that the violent subjugation and exploitation of women and girls is ongoing and not enough is being done by governments to address it. Take, for example, reports that in a marketplace in Skopje, Macedonia, women are forced to walk around a stage naked while brothel owners point their fingers to make a selection. Women are bought and sold like cattle and treated like slaves.

In Krong Koh Kong, Cambodia, 14-year-old girls stand outside a row of shacks where they charge the equivalent of \$2 or \$3 for sex, half of which goes to their pimps. These girls, many of whom have AIDS, are discarded when they become too sick to continue working.

Even in the United States, we are not immune to the scourge of human trafficking. Earlier this month, Federal agents raided brothels and businesses in San Francisco and arrested two dozen people allegedly operating an international sex-trafficking ring. Nearly 100 South Korean women were lured to illegally enter the United States; whereupon, they were held captive and forced to work as prostitutes.

Around the world, women and girls are sold as slaves and forced to engage in unprotected sex because clients offer more money for such acts. These women have no control over their lives, their health or their futures. Trafficking victims in the sex industry are exposed to HIV/AIDS at much higher rates than the general population, with no access to medical care. The fear of infection of AIDS among customers has driven traffickers to recruit younger

girls, erroneously perceived to be too young to have been infected.

Last month, the State Department issued its fifth annual Trafficking in Persons report, which ranks the efforts of 150 countries to combat human trafficking. Some have observed that the United States has been soft on certain Asian countries thought to be lax on trafficking, such as Indonesia, the Philippines, India, and Thailand. Because these countries are vital allies in fighting terrorism, they may have been treated with greater leniency.

On the other hand, this year, the State Department identified four Middle Eastern allies—Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates—as being among the worst offenders of human trafficking and whose governments are doing little to control it. Despite the fact that these countries have been important partners of the United States, their inadequate efforts on human trafficking demand a call to action by the United States.

Mr. President, this report is merely one first step in combating a growing international problem. We must call upon governments around the world to renew their efforts against this form of modern-day slavery.

We must rededicate our efforts to the prevention of human trafficking, protection of victims, and prosecution of traffickers. Nowhere on Earth should it be acceptable to deceive, abuse, and force a person into a life of enslavement. To deny a person their right to freedom, is an affront to the ideals established nearly 57 years ago in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We can and must do better.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STEPHEN STIGLICH

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the life of a distinguished civil servant and friend, Stephen "Bob" Stiglich, who passed away early this morning. Bob's love for our State kept him involved in public service up until his death, working to help Hoosiers from all walks of life. I know that he will be greatly missed.

Bob was a good and decent man who dedicated his life to public service. From his time in law enforcement to his successes in business to his involvement in Democratic politics, his long career was filled with acts of conscientious service on behalf of friends, family members, and Hoosiers across Northwest Indiana. The contributions he made to the region touched countless lives and his presence and humor will be sorely missed.

Bob began his career as an East Chicago police officer, and he never stopped serving the people of Northwest Indiana. It is a rare man who can make such an impact on so many people over the course of one life. Hoosiers will miss Bob as a friend, a community leader, and colleague.