

their success so we can eventually expand them in future pieces of legislation.

Finally, I want to focus our attention on the countries of our own hemisphere. I am deeply concerned to see that five of the 14 tier 3 countries designated by the State Department are from Latin America or the Caribbean. These are the countries that are designated as the worse violators. They are not even complying with the minimum standards to eliminate trafficking. Even worse, they are not making a significant effort to be able to change the course of events. So I hope that this legislation will have our own hemisphere focused on what they must do to stop the hurting and trafficking of their own people.

Finally, I would remind my colleagues of article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." This legislation takes those words and turns them into action. I urge all Members to support this important legislation.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of our time to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), a champion for human rights.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to first of all simply commend and congratulate Chairman HYDE and Mr. LANTOS on their leadership of the International Relations Committee. I also commend the gentleman from New Jersey for his introduction of this outstanding piece of legislation.

I speak because I have a constituent in my community, a woman named Oprah Winfrey, who almost every week sends me a letter talking about this issue and urging that Congress must do as much as it can to bring some help to those individuals throughout the world who are victimized; and so I am strongly in favor of the passage of this bill. I want to thank my constituent for keeping me abreast of the issue by at least writing me once every week or two about this issue.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank all of the Members who have participated in this debate, and more importantly, note the work that they did to bring this legislation to fruition.

Let me also point out that the modest sanctions that are in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act have yielded significant new laws throughout the world. In 2004 alone, 39 countries enacted new laws or strengthened existing laws. We know when we put some carrots and sticks, the sticks being the possibility of losing non-humanitarian foreign aid, security aid for example, and then when we place countries in a ranking system that makes determinations concerning a country's achievement in meeting

"minimum standards"—tier 1, tier 2, tier 3, and tier 3 being the egregious violators with a new watch list, we get their attention. Many countries have taken action and today we work in a partnership to try to end trafficking.

After drugs and weapons, trafficking in human persons is the biggest money-maker for organized crime. The ILO suggested in a June study approximately \$32 billion a year goes into the coffers of those who are committing such nefarious crimes against innocent individuals.

Finally, I would just say we have in this legislation a provision—a study—that seeks to find whether or not there is a nexus between terrorism and trafficking.

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With that kind of money flowing into trafficking enterprises, these horrific enterprises, we tend to think that there probably is a link with terrorism. We do not know. We want to find out.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support and as an original cosponsor of H.R. 972, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005. As the Ranking Member of the Helsinki Commission, let me commend Chairman CHRIS SMITH for all of his hard work on this issue both in the United States and around the world. I also want to thank International Relations Committee Ranking Member TOM LANTOS for his strong support.

In 2000 Congress enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVRA), which for the first time provided definitive protection for victims of human trafficking. Governments estimate that between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year, yielding approximately \$10 billion annually in illegal gains. When considering internal trafficking within a country, this number rises to an estimated 4 million persons.

Human trafficking destroys families and communities across the world. Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, which traps people into forced labor or sexual slavery. Human traffickers violate the most basic human rights of their victims. The international community must oppose human trafficking in all its forms, and work together to eradicate this scourge on humanity. I commend the work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for addressing this issue in a comprehensive manner, by creating an Action Plan to combat trafficking and appointing a Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

The United States also has a problem with human trafficking as a destination country for many trafficking victims, as we heard in a recent Helsinki Commission hearing on domestic trafficking. The State Department believes that more than 14,500 people are trafficked into the U.S. every year, either for forced labor or sexual exploitation and slavery. Traffickers bring these victims—mainly women and children—from all over the globe, including Southeast Asia and the Americas. Traffickers often use criminal gangs to transport their human cargo. I am pleased that the government has created special "T" visas for victims of human trafficking who cooperate with law enforcement officials.

In 2003 Congress adopted the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, which

created a new country "watch list" under the supervision of the Department of State. This list has had a measurable effect on the behavior of offending countries. The State Department places the worst offenders on Tier 3 and makes these countries subject to certain economic and trade sanctions by the U.S. The number of Tier 3 countries has dropped from 27 in 2001 to 14 in 2005, so we have made measurable progress in raising awareness on this issue, but more work needs to be done.

This legislation will require USAID and the Department of Defense to include anti-trafficking policies in post-conflict and humanitarian assistance programs. Governments must put in place special measures to combat trafficking in countries that do not have a functioning and effective central government. This bill would enhance U.S. efforts to combat trafficking involving international peacekeepers.

The bill also authorizes \$15 million annually for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a pilot program to establish U.S. residential treatment facilities for minors who are victims of domestic trafficking. The bill also expands counseling programs for victims of severe forms of trafficking. In total, the bill authorizes \$68 million annually to combat human trafficking and assist victims.

We must keep the pressure up on other countries that do little to stop human trafficking, by implementing sanctions when needed and by using all available diplomatic channels. United States courts need to prosecute those individuals who commit these crimes on U.S. soil to the full extent of the law, and to send a message that the United States does not and will not tolerate human trafficking. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 972, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey.

There was no objection.