

Almagro expressed his congratulations to Mr. Guaido as Venezuela's legitimate sitting President.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is time to choose to stand with the courageous protesters demanding freedom, many of them bruised and bloodied from the violence perpetrated on them by the Maduro thugs. Reports indicate that at least 29 protesters have been killed just since last week, and the Maduro regime holds hundreds of political prisoners. The Maduro regime has ruthlessly corrupted Venezuela's once-democratic institutions, including the Supreme Court.

The U.N. High Commissioner of Human Rights and others have documented egregious human rights abuses, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and torture. We have seen that the Venezuelan people continue to demand freedom in the face of teargas, imprisonment, and, yes, even bullets.

The United States is standing with the Venezuelan people, sanctioning 65 of the most corrupt and abusive members of the Maduro regime, including Maduro himself. Congress and the administration are also working to alleviate the grave humanitarian crisis that the Maduro regime has caused, providing nearly \$100 million in humanitarian aid to those Venezuelans who have fled to other countries and an additional \$37 million in development assistance to Colombia.

Earlier this year, my colleague, Congressman DARREN SOTO, and I worked together to introduce the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019 which would provide Temporary Protective Status to Venezuelan nationals here in the United States. The situation in Venezuela is way too dangerous to force them to return now.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the humanitarian crisis rivals the grave democratic crisis in Venezuela. Under Venezuela's socialism, its people are suffering skyrocketing inflation, profound destitution, and shortages of necessary food and medicine.

Venezuela was once, just recently, one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Now the vast majority of Venezuelan people have sunk into poverty. Hospitals are abandoned, Mr. Speaker, and food and medicines are scarce. But, Mr. Speaker, we have entered a time of critical importance. Rarely is there such an obvious choice between good and evil, freedom and enslavement, and accountable government and tyranny.

From Venezuela's one last vestige of democracy came a glimmer of hope. From the democratically elected National Assembly, a leader emerged who was courageous enough to lead the opposition and face certain persecution. Juan Guaido stepped up to represent the Venezuelan people and work with the international community toward a democratic transition to unite the many voices in the opposition behind a common purpose: freedom, human rights, and free and fair elections.

He has designated his charge d'affaires here in the United States, Carlos

Vecchio, whose leadership was welcomed by Secretary Pompeo and who is coordinating between the Guaido government and the United States Government.

Already as President Guaido is gaining strength, we are seeing signs of cracks from the Maduro dictatorship. The United States must continue to be the world leader in defense of those struggling for democracy, and others in the world community who value freedom also must stand with the people of Venezuela in their quest for democracy.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Eastern Europe have not forgotten that we stood with them during those decades in their struggle against Communism for decades. They were victorious; and today they are free, and they are allies. The people of Venezuela will also be victorious.

(The English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

To the Venezuelan Armed Forces, this is the time to recover your honor, to recover your dignity and stand with the Venezuelan people in this noble cause, which is freedom.

And to the brave Venezuelan people, you are not alone. The Trump administration, the United States Congress, the United States is with you.

A las Fuerzas Armadas de Venezuela, este es el momento de recuperar su honor, de recuperar su dignidad y ponerse de lado del pueblo Venezolano en esta noble causa que es la libertad.

Y al valiente pueblo Venezolano, no están solos. La administración del presidente Trump, el Congreso de los Estados Unidos, si todo los Estados Unidos están con ustedes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida will provide a translation of his remarks to the Clerk.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JOHN HEARN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a law enforcement official who was recently named Police Chief of Newtown Township in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Earlier this month, Newtown Township's Board of Supervisors unanimously supported Philadelphia Police Department Captain John Hearn to become the next police chief. John, a Northampton Township resident, is a 29-year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department. He previously served as a lieutenant in that department's highway patrol, helping to escort dignitaries such as Pope Francis and former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush.

Throughout his esteemed career, John distinguished himself as an innovative leader. He represented Philadelphia when five neighboring counties established protocol and a coordinated response to terrorist threats, and he served as a volunteer with fire companies in Montgomery County.

Mr. Speaker, we congratulate John on his new role, and I look forward to working closely with him to keep our Bucks County families safe.

RECOGNIZING OFFICERS MEGAN KLOSTERMAN AND GINA FERZETTI

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize members of our law enforcement community who recently joined our Bucks County family as members of the Solebury Township Police Department.

Earlier this month, Officers Megan Klosterman and Gina Ferzetti were sworn in by Magisterial District Judge Maggie Snow as the department's first full-time female officers.

Officer Klosterman is a graduate of Upper Dublin High School and Pennsylvania State University. Officer Ferzetti is a graduate of Ridley High School and previously served with the Temple University Police Department. Both of these dedicated public servants served as part-time members of Solebury Township Police Department prior to their full instatement.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Officers Klosterman and Ferzetti on their promotions and their dedication to keeping all of our families safe in our community. Their hiring is truly an inspiring moment for Solebury Township and for Bucks County.

I would also like to thank Police Chief Dominick Bellizzi and Township Manager Dennis Carney for their leadership.

RECOGNIZING JULIE UCHITEL

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a student from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who was recently awarded a coveted scholarship to study in the United Kingdom.

Julie Uchitel, a resident of Upper Southampton, was selected to receive a Marshall Scholarship, one of only 40 recipients out of over 1,000 applicants. Julie is a senior at Duke University where she is a neuroscience and French double major. She is the president of the Neuroscience Majors' Union at Duke and has conducted clinical and basic pediatric research at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Duke Children's Hospital. She is the author of two published articles and has volunteered in Paris and in Honduras to offer medical assistance to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, Julie's resume is too voluminous to summarize. We are so proud to have her as part of our community, and we wish her all the best as she pursues her studies at Cambridge and King's College in London. I look forward to seeing all of her accomplishments in the years to come.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 39 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.