

The garden serves as a collaborative effort between the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Catholic Social Services.

For many immigrants who arrive in our community, the Fatima Community Garden Project gives newcomers the ability to use horticultural skills cultivated in their homelands while offering them the opportunity to converse with local residents. One neighbor referred to the Fatima Community Garden Project as a sanctuary.

Mr. Speaker, the Fatima Community Garden Project officially opens on Saturday, and I would like to thank several people who have worked over the past year to make this unique collaboration successful: J. Mizael Chavez, a community leader who helped families establish their presence in Bensalem; Matt Rader, president of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; and Estela Bugg of Catholic Social Services for all of their work.

#### HONORING PDC MACHINES

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a second-generation, family-owned business in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that was recognized last month for the outstanding work that they do to support our local economy.

PDC Machines, Inc., an equipment manufacturer based in Warminster, Pennsylvania, was honored at the 2019 President's E Award ceremony. They were presented with an award by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross for their work supporting the expansion of U.S. exports.

Founded in 1977, PDC has been exporting products since the early 1980s. Today, approximately 50 percent of PDC's revenues come from international business.

PDC Machines takes great pride in the quality of their products and the services they provide to their customers. I am proud to have such a dynamic and innovative company in our community in Bucks County.

We congratulate the Afzal family for this well-deserved recognition.

#### GIVE MICHAEL NGUYEN FAIR TREATMENT IN VIETNAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Mr. Michael Nguyen, an American citizen and resident of my home district, California's 45th Congressional District.

Mr. Nguyen left Vietnam in 1975, 44 years ago. The Vietnamese Government arrested Michael last summer, almost a year ago, while he was traveling and visiting elderly relatives. Michael has now been detained in Vietnam for over 11 months.

We still don't know what crime he is alleged to have committed or what, if any, evidence the Vietnamese Government has to justify his detention and his upcoming trial.

My office has asked repeatedly for this information, but we have been told that we won't know these basics until Michael is taken to court later this month. His family won't know these basics until then.

To make matters worse, for the vast majority of these past 11 months, Michael was being detained without formal charges at all. We now know that Michael is being charged for allegedly violating article 109 of the Vietnamese Criminal Code, activities against the government. This is a charge that Vietnamese officials have used in the past for arbitrary arrests.

By all accounts, Michael is a good man. He was an active member of his community and church in Orange County. I have met his family numerous times, and his wife, Helen, was my guest for the State of the Union.

He has four beautiful daughters, all school age, who miss their father very much. He is a dad who makes breakfast for his girls in the morning and was their primary caretaker.

He was a small business owner, and he is an American citizen with no criminal record here in the United States.

He hasn't been able to speak to his family during this entire time, nearly 1 year. Instead, the Vietnamese Government permits only monthly visits by the U.S. State Department. I thank our State Department officials for visiting him, enabling him to hear messages from his loved ones, and working to ensure his health during this long detention.

But that isn't enough. His family is suffering. Michael's wife, Helen, has taken on a second job while acting as a single mom to their four young girls. His daughters have trouble sleeping and focusing at school.

This entire situation is unjust. Michael was held without formal charges for over 9 months, and we still have been presented with no evidence. That is not how an American citizen should be treated abroad. We expect our partners to show respect for human rights and the rule of law.

I am grateful that so many of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, continue to join me in calling on the Vietnamese Government to do what is right. This is not a partisan issue.

Respectfully, I demand that the Vietnamese Government provide Michael with a fair resolution to his case and return him safely to the U.S. and to his family as soon as possible.

I will continue to work to secure Michael's release until he is reunited with his family and brought home to his country, the United States of America.

#### STAND UP FOR SUDANESE PEOPLE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last year, I had the opportunity to visit Sudan

and hear from the Sudanese people. I saw firsthand the devastating toll that the Sudanese regime has taken on the country of Sudan and its citizens.

Sadly, today, the hardship and violence have escalated after months of peaceful protests by the brave Sudanese people.

Sudan's longtime leader, President Omar al-Bashir, was removed from power. Since then, the Transitional Military Council has attacked protesters who are peacefully calling for a transition to democratic governance.

The news we continue to see from Sudan over the past few weeks has been nothing short of heart-wrenching as peaceful protesters have been attacked, threatened, and killed.

Congress cannot sit idly by while this regime kills its own citizens, blocks communication to the outside world, and continues to commit serious human rights abuses.

Congress must do everything we can to help end this conflict. We are morally obligated to use this platform to call attention to what is happening there and to say with a unified voice that the Sudanese Government's treatment of its people is completely unacceptable.

For these reasons, I have introduced a bipartisan resolution this week calling attention to the situation in Sudan. I am honored that the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ENGEL, joined two other leaders on this issue, Representative MCGOVERN and Representative BILIRAKIS, in supporting this legislation as original cosponsors.

I ask my colleagues to all join as cosponsors for this important resolution, a resolution that affirms that it is Congress' position that the Transitional Military Council must immediately stop all violence against peaceful protesters and begin to immediately transition governance to a democratic and civilian-led body.

The Sudanese people have the right to freedom from oppression and violence and to live in a country where they can choose their own leaders without fear of persecution, without fear of violence, and without fear of being killed for simply asserting their right to self-determination, as all human beings ought to be allowed.

Simply, the ability to peacefully assemble and have one's voice heard is a basic human right. It should be afforded to all people, including all citizens of Sudan.

This resolution also makes it clear that Sudan must improve dramatically if it wants to continue a productive engagement with the United States of America, including political reform and respect for basic human rights.

This resolution affirms the right of Sudanese people to assemble peacefully and condemns the government's use of violence against protesters and journalists. We emphasize that absent political reforms and respect for human rights, it will be impossible for the U.S. to engage Sudan as a partner.