issues affecting their community. Students at the University of California at Santa Barbara expressed their disapproval of Proposition 209 by protesting on campus. More recently, students have petitioned to raise the political awareness that the Nike industry is thriving under the operation of numerous sweat shops. These events, in which people were entitled to be heard under the public light, were only possible because of the First Amendment—freedom of speech and the right to peaceably assemble and petition.

Furthermore, the extent to which democracy can exist is most dependent upon Americans' political culture to tolerate one another's right to his or her opinion as exemplified in the peaceful assembles and petitions previously mentioned. At least minimal political tolerance must be expected in order to preserve the objective of a democracy. If Catholics were denied the right to hold public meetings, if government militia were the norm to breaking up peaceful immigrant protesters, if pro-life groups bombed every abortion clinic, then democracy would fail. National Opinion polls, conducted by Samuel Barnes and Max Kasse, have shown that under the American political culture the public has become more tolerant over the last few decades. These surveys reveal that as more citizens support an oppression-free atmosphere, democracy is able to meet its goal of a participatory government.

American democracy distinguishes itself from all other systems of government by maintaining the exercise of its Constitutional bureaucratic framework, the Bill of Rights, and political tolerance. The United States' participatory democracy genuinely allows for equal representation in an environment where the voice and concerns of the people can be heard.

IRISH DEPORTEES

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the plight of several Irish nationals facing deportation from the United States.

As an executive board member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, I am deeply disappointed by our Government's policy. These men facing deportation left their homeland in the face of political persecution and now live peaceful, productive lives in the United States.

Even so, in what we know as the land of freedom, they are now pursued by our own government. Most of the subjects of deportation proceedings are married to American citizens or legal permanent residents. Most have children who are American citizens. Most would be entitled to permanent residence in the United States, except for their involvement in the Irish political struggle. And, most would face severe persecution if forced to return to Northern Ireland.

Two of those facing deportation, Gabriel Megahey and Robert McErlean, live in my congressional district. Two days ago, a person named Sean Brown, a man from Mr. McErlean's village in the north of Ireland, was brutally assassinated. Only 59 years old and not deeply involved in politics, Sean Brown's death only adds weight to my constituents' assertions that the would face persecution if forced to be deported to their homeland.

Mr. Speaker, 3 months ago, the Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs held an unprecedented forum on the Irish deportees. After hearing from a representative of the administration and family members of the deportees, more than 60 Members of the House of Representatives wrote to President Clinton pleading for justice for those facing deportation. Today, I renew that appeal and once again request that President Clinton meet with a delegation from the Ad Hoc Committee to discuss our Government's unjust policy toward the deportation cases.

CONCERNING THE DEATH OF CHAIM HERZOG

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM BUNNING

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of a true hero of Israel, President Chaim Herzog. His leadership and perseverance are examples of why Israel remains the only freely elected country in the Middle East.

Chaim Herzog dedicated his life to the creation and preservation of a free and independent Israel. As a true patriot, Mr. Herzog bravely fought the Nazis as Director of British Intelligence in northern Germany and after the war served as an officer in the Israeli Army during the war of independence in 1948. With Israel's independence secured, Chaim Herzog took on the responsibility of heading Israel's military intelligence branch and served as the country's defense attaché here in Washington, DC until 1954. After a long and distinguished career, Mr. Herzog retired from the army in 1962, with the rank of major-general.

Even after leaving military service, Mr. Herzog continued his work to ensure Israel's freedom. During the Six-Day War, Mr. Herzog was a voice for his people by providing in-depth analysis of the victorious Israeli Army and Air Force. Afterward, he became the first military governor of the West Bank.

Mr. Herzog soon returned to public service by serving as Israel's Ambassador to the U.N. from 1975 to 1978, where he argued against the U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism and led the charge in defending the triumphant rescue of Israeli hostages in Uganda.

Mr. Herzog, returned to Israel where he was elected to the Knesset in 1981, serving until 1983. In 1983, Mr. Herzog was chosen as the sixth President of the State of Israel and served two terms, until 1993. During this time he improved relations between our two countries and continued Israel's efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

Israel has lost a great hero with the passing of Chaim Herzog and America has lost a great friend.

TRIBUTE TO EL CENTRO DE AMISTAD

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to El Centro de Amistad, which this year is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Now led by Angel Perez, El Centro has established an impressive record of providing help to at-risk youth and their families in the San Fernando Valley. Anyone who wants to see young people off drugs and away from gangs is grateful to El Centro for its efforts.

Founded in 1977, the original advisory board worked directly with the agency responsible for its development, the San Fernando Community Mental Health Centers, Inc. Seven years later the advisory board assumed the role of governing board, and El Centro de Amistad was born. A bilingual/bicultural nonprofit organization, El Centro offers health, mental health, education, and community action services. Many of its clients are poor Latinos, and many of these are recent immigrants.

El Centro focuses on reducing risk factors that can lead to violence, school failure, gang affiliation, and child abuse. The organization offers youth counseling, afterschool tutoring, and summer activities/youth job placement as healthy alternatives to destructive behavior. In 1996 El Centro provided direct services to 13,000 clients and an additional 10,000 family members. It's numbers such as these that vividly illustrate the importance of El Centro to the entire San Fernando Valley.

In 1989 El Centro opened a satellite center in the city of San Fernando to address the needs of an overwhelmingly Latino population. Eight years later, the San Fernando Satellite Center is an unqualified success. Among its many important duties, the Satellite Center has provided psychological counseling to residents in the aftermath of the devastating Northridge earthquake.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting El Centro de Amistad, which has made a difference in the lives of so many people. Its dedication to making this a better world inspires us all.

IRISH DEPORTEES

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of seven families now living in the United States. The fathers in these families, Noel Gaynor, Robbie McErlean, Gabriel Megahey, Matt Morrison, Charles Caufield, Kevin Crossan, Brian Pearson, are all Irish nationals, all married to American citizens or legal residents, and are facing deportion.

Earlier this year, I listened to the testimony of many of these families at a hearing before the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs. They have been living and working in the United States for many years, some for more than two decades. However, they live under the constant threat of deportation. Because of past political involvement, these men, their wives, even their children would most likely face violence and harassment if forced to live in Northern Ireland.

After years of living in turmoil, these men came to the United States to settle and raise their families. Mr. Speaker, they deserve no less than true, unbiased judgment by our laws.