

STATEMENT BY MARY ROBINSON, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHIAPAS, MEXICO

I have been following with mounting concern the situation of human rights in the Chiapas region of Mexico. News reports and almost daily submissions from representatives of indigenous groups and NGOs indicate an alarming deterioration over the past several days.

These reports paint a grim picture of an atmosphere of fear among the indigenous people of Chiapas caught between government forces supported by officially funded militias on one side and armed resistant groups on the other. Such conflict does not serve the interests of anyone.

The deaths of nine people in what has been reported as an action by government forces in the town of San Juan de la Libertad this week is just the latest in a string of violent incidents in a region already affected by widespread displacement, dispossession and severe poverty.

These are serious violations of the rights of indigenous people. As High Commissioner and as the UN Coordinator for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, I appeal to the Government of Mexico to look urgently at ways of restoring dialogue with communities in Chiapas. A reduction in the military presence in the region could be an important first step in restoring confidence that a peaceful solution might be found. This would also contribute to improving the current climate of fear.

The Office of the High Commissioner is prepared to assist the Government in meeting its obligations under the International Covenants and other human rights treaties it has ratified including ILO Convention 169 of 1989 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. We would also welcome opportunities to assist civil society organizations active in promoting respect for human rights as an essential condition for improving the lives of people in Chiapas.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF
ROSEVILLE'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to send birthday greetings to a special city at the heart of Michigan's 10th Congressional District. On June 20, 1998, the City of Roseville will celebrate its 40th birthday and will dedicate a new library addition. Citizens of Roseville will gather at the Civic Center grounds for food and family entertainment in honor of this historic occasion.

When Michigan became a state in 1837, this area was a small farming community known first as Orange Township, then as Erin Township. As history tells us, William Rose was appointed as the area's first postmaster in 1836. In a tribute to his father, Denison Rose, a hero of the War of 1812, William established the Roseville Post Office. Gradually, the whole community became known as Roseville.

Years passed and the residents witnessed great changes such as a plank toll road and the Rapid Electric Interurban. Churches, schools and libraries were established as spiritual, educational, and cultural centers. In the 1950s, the area experienced a population explosion. Homes, shopping centers, industrial

plants, and highways were developed. In 1958, the booming village was incorporated as the City of Roseville.

As the 52,000 members of this community celebrate their past, they are also anticipating a bright future. With the dedication of the new addition to Roseville Library, the city is dedicating a living piece of history. Mr. Long, who founded the institution in 1936 said, "No town should be without a library." Since it has opened, the Library has changed locations, expanded, and become "the information place" for the citizens of Roseville.

On the 40th Anniversary of the City of Roseville, we celebrate the people who have made this community a diverse and wonderful place to live. I would like to extend my congratulations on this historic occasion and best wishes for a successful future.

HONORING SHEPARD COLEMAN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today it is with sadness that I rise to recognize the life of Shepard Coleman, a talented musician and award winning musical conductor. I wish to call to the attention of our colleagues the outstanding talents of Shepard Coleman, who made his home in Orange County, New York. On June 27, there will be a memorial service for Shepard Coleman in Sugarloaf, New York, at the Lycian Center.

Shep Coleman was an accomplished musician who for many years was the leading cellist with the New York Philharmonic. The Washington Post reported on May 17, that as a graduate of the Julliard School of Music, Shep Coleman was a pit musician in many Broadway musicals from 1946 to 1960. He played under Leonard Bernstein for more than twenty years, as well as playing for Frank Sinatra. In 1964, Shep Coleman won a Tony Award for his magnificent musical direction of the Broadway hit, "Hello Dolly".

Shep Coleman was extremely active in local theater productions. He was a loving teacher as well as a great performer. He was also a strong supporter of many AIDS charities and art organizations. When he moved to Warwick, New York, he became active in their Humane Society. Shep Coleman continually gave of himself for the benefit of our entire community.

I came to personally know Shep through his advocacy for the Arts in our home region. Shep was the kind of person who placed a high premium on attracting young people to the Arts and encouraging them to develop their talents. Shep never hesitated to remind me that by stimulating the Arts Community, we are helping the economy of our entire region.

Shep Coleman was an articulate, unique individual who will long be missed greatly by his friends and neighbors in Orange County, New York.

Shep is survived by his sister, Diana Hoffman, of New York City, his brother, Aaron Coleman also of New York City, and his nephews Robert and Kenneth Hoffman.

Shep Coleman lived to the age of 74. He was always involved in so many different aspects of our communities, always devoting himself to a good cause. Mr. Speaker, I invite

all my colleagues to join me in honoring Shepard Coleman. We have lost an outstanding talent and a great friend.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. BOB BERRY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding service of Dr. Bob Berry of Yucaipa, California. Bob, the Chief Information Officer for the Information Systems Department at the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Office in San Bernardino, is moving to Michigan shortly to pursue a wonderful professional opportunity with Central Michigan University.

Bob graduated from Central Michigan University in 1969 with a double major in Biological Science and Instrumental Music. Three years later, he earned a MA degree in Curriculum Development and Educational Administration from CMU. In 1979, Bob completed his Doctor of Education degree at Northern Arizona University.

Dr. Berry began his professional career at the Fowler Public School System in Michigan serving as Director of Instrumental Music (1969-74) and Principal of Fowler High School (1974-1976). From 1976-84, he worked at Northern Arizona University as Assistant Director of Research and Development, Assistant Professor of Educational Administration, and Executive Director of the Arizona Public Schools Computer Consortium.

In 1984, Bob became Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. In this capacity, he has had the responsibility of planning, organizing, and implementing all administrative financial processing requirements for the educational agencies within San Bernardino County, the largest in the United States. In addition, the CIO also serves as the executive director of the California Educational Computer Consortium comprised of other California county offices of education, school districts and community colleges. The consortium, comprised of over 249 agencies, pools its financial resources for applications software development and services.

Over the years, Bob has served as professional consultant for a number of school districts across the United States in computer systems, budgeting, and networking. In addition, he has served in numerous professional development capacities and has had numerous articles published in educational journals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing Dr. Bob Berry as he prepares for his latest professional challenge. To say the least, his fine work with the San Bernardino County School District will be greatly missed. I'd like to join County Superintendent, Barry Pulliam, and others in wishing Bob Berry the very best in his future endeavors.