

Never Again." This report represents an outstanding and extremely difficult effort to establish the death toll of 36 years of civil war, which is estimated to be at least 150,000, in addition to some 50,000 estimated disappearances. This crucial report—which clearly placed the blame for the majority of human rights abuses during the civil war upon the Guatemalan army—was prepared by the inter-diocesan project, Recovery of Historical Memory (REMHI), which the Bishop coordinated. Needless to say, there is complete documentation for only a small number of cases, and the efforts by the Archbishop's Human Rights Office will continue. Let us never forget that these staggering estimates reflect the suffering and pains of hundreds of thousands of individuals, families, and loved ones, which no statistics can ever do justice.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to take this opportunity to thank my good friends and distinguished colleagues, Congresswomen NANCY PELOSI of California and CONNIE MORELLA of Maryland, as well as Congressman GEORGE MILLER of California for leading a recent delegation in conjunction with the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights, which went to Guatemala to examine the impact of the murder of Bishop Gerardi on the future of the peace process and to check the status of the investigation launched by the Guatemalan authorities. Our resolution today clearly shows to all parties involved how seriously we in the United States Congress and in the U.S. government take these brutal efforts to silence this human rights activist. The guilty parties must be brought to justice.

While the world mourns the tragic loss of Bishop Gerardi, the efforts to implement the peace process must continue. Only by establishing the basic democratic principle of accountability will the Peace Accords be successful. Otherwise, the removal of Guatemala from the U.N. Human Rights Commission list of Countries under observation for human rights abuses could prove to be premature.

In order to assist the people in Guatemala to achieve the goals expressed in the peace accords, I have introduced H.R. 2635, the Human Rights Information Act, which provides Truth Commissions, such as the one in Guatemala, with the necessary information to document and prosecute human rights abuses which occurred in their country. The bi-partisan Human Rights Information Act is currently cosponsored by 92 of our distinguished colleagues in the House. I commend the outstanding human rights leadership of my friend and colleague, Congressman STEVEN HORN, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, for holding a hearing on this bill. I hope it will be possible to mark up this bill as soon as possible, before we run out of time in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 421.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof),

the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONCERNING THE NEW TRIBES MISSION HOSTAGE CRISIS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 277) concerning the New Tribes Mission hostage crisis.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 277

Whereas Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tenenoff of the Sanford, Florida, based New Tribes Mission were abducted on January 31, 1993, from the Kuna Indian village of Pucuro in the Darien Province of Panama;

Whereas the wives and children of these American citizens, Tania Rich (daughters—Tamra and Jessica), Nancy Mankins (son—Chad, daughter—Sarah), and Patti Tenenoff (son—Richard Lee III, daughters—Dora and Connie), have lived the past 5 years without knowledge of the safety of these 3 men;

Whereas Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tenenoff presently are believed to be the longest held United States hostages;

Whereas this kidnapping represents a gross violation of the 3 missionaries' human rights and is not an isolated incident in Colombia where, since 1980, 83 innocent Americans have been held hostage by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN);

Whereas the FARC and the ELN guerrilla groups in Colombia have both been designated terrorist organizations by the Department of State;

Whereas Colombia is engaged in a high-level conflict with these guerrilla insurgency groups, a number of whom are protectors of the deadly drug trade;

Whereas the FARC has recently threatened officials of the United States Government and kidnapped additional United States citizens in Colombia;

Whereas the region of Colombia where the 3 American missionaries are believed to be held is controlled not by the Colombian Government, but rather by the FARC;

Whereas on December 9, 1997, the President of Colombia stated on an internationally televised episode of Larry King Live that the FARC "in some ways have admitted indirectly that they have the missionaries";

Whereas Human Rights Watch has stated that "The FARC has an obligation to unconditionally free the 3 missionaries, with all necessary guarantees" and Amnesty International has declared their "request that the FARC respect international humanitarian norms, guarantee the life and physical safety of the missionaries and unconditionally free them and all other hostages";

Whereas congressional inquiries regarding the 3 missionaries have been made to United States Government entities, including, the White House, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Whereas congressional inquiries regarding the 3 missionaries have been made to Amnesty International, Pax Christi, His Holiness the Pope John Paul II, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has provided assurances that their Colombian delegation "is still actively working in favor of the missing members of the New Tribes Mission";

Whereas 58 Members of Congress and Senators signed letters to 8 different heads of

state, including Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Spain, Venezuela, Guatemala, Colombia, and Portugal, in attendance at the Iberian-American Conference in Venezuela in November of 1997, requesting any and all assistance in order to bring about a favorable outcome to this unfortunate event;

Whereas no official confirmation of life or death has been made by any United States Government entity, nongovernmental organization, foreign government, or religious institution;

Whereas the distinction between a "terrorist activity" and a "criminal activity" perpetrated on an American citizen traveling abroad should not be a limiting factor in terms of United States governmental investigation; and

Whereas every consideration to safety and prudence regarding action by the United States Government, foreign governments, nongovernmental organizations, international institutions, and other groups in this matter should be of the highest priority: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) the President of the United States and his emissaries should raise the kidnapping of Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tenenoff of the New Tribes Mission and other American victims in Colombia to all relevant foreign governments, nongovernmental organizations, and religious institutions at every opportunity until a favorable outcome is achieved;

(2) the international community should encourage any and all groups believed to have information on this case to come forward to help the families of the kidnapped missionaries;

(3) all appropriate information obtained by the United States Government, foreign governments, international institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and religious institutions should be turned over in a timely basis to the New Tribes Mission crisis response team;

(4) a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the President, the Secretary of State, the National Security Advisor, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Director of Central Intelligence, the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, the President of the United Mexican States, the President of the Republic of Panama, the King of Spain, the President of the Republic of Venezuela, the President of the Republic of Guatemala, the President of the Republic of Colombia, the President of the Republic of Portugal, and His Holiness Pope John Paul II; and

(5) a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the New Tribes Mission, Amnesty International, Pax Christi, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. 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 matter on House Concurrent Resolution 277.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 277 concerning the New Tribes Mission hostage crisis. I want to commend our colleagues on the committee: the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), for introducing this concurrent resolution highlighting the plight of the New Tribes missionaries in Columbia; and I understand that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) contributed to the drafting of this resolution, and have been actively engaged on behalf of the families of these victims of terrorist kidnappings. This resolution received the unanimous support of our committee, and was referred to the suspension calendar.

Since 1980, Mr. Speaker, 83 innocent Americans have been held hostage in Columbia. Twelve of these Americans are known to have been murdered. In February, 1997, American geologist Frank Pescatore was brutally killed by the narcoterrorist group that calls itself the National Liberation Army, the ELM.

In 1995, the Florida-based New Tribes Mission lost two other missionaries, Steve Welsh and Timothy Van Dyke, who were murdered by another narcoterrorist group that calls itself the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia, the FARC. These kidnappings and the suffering of the victims and their families have been virtually unnoticed and have been underreported in the media. Moreover, in Columbia, kidnappers act with substantial impunity. Ninety-seven percent of crimes in Columbia are never brought to justice.

In March, our Committee on International Relations held a hearing in which we heard testimony from three Americans whose lives were callously and inexorably altered by kidnapping at the hands of Columbia narcoterrorists. The testimony of Mrs. Tania Rich and the other kidnapped missionaries' wives was particularly moving.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for the missionaries' captives to come forward with any information they may have on their fate and their well-being. Accordingly, I invite all of our colleagues to join in approving this resolution today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again I thank the gentleman from New York, the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, for his management of this legislation now before us. I want to commend the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) for his authorship of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution calls for the President and his representatives

to raise the kidnapping of these three missionaries and all other American victims of kidnapping in Columbia with relevant governments, NGOs, and religious institutions at every opportunity.

The resolution also calls on the international community to encourage all groups with information on this case to come forward. Also, the resolution states that all appropriate information on the case of these three missionaries be provided to the New Tribes Mission crisis response team.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that kidnapping is literally an industry now in Columbia, where thousands of people are taken and held for ransom every year. No case, however, is as cynical and senseless as the case of Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tenenoff. These three men were on mission in southern Panama when they were kidnapped in January of 1993. If Columbia insurgents are as serious about peace as they say they are, then the least we can expect from them is an accounting of where these three men are and what has happened to them.

Mr. Speaker, the drafters of this resolution have been very active in raising the profile of this very regrettable case, and they ought to be commended for their efforts, especially the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

This resolution deserves our support, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS).

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I am compelled to rise today to urge the House to support House Resolution 277, because it means that Columbian guerillas are still holding David Mankins, Mark Rich, and Rick Tenenoff as hostages.

As we know, in January of 1993 the Columbian guerillas crossed the border into Panama and kidnapped David, Richard, and Mark from an Indian village where they were doing humanitarian work. These three American missionaries have now been held for over 5 years by the guerillas. I believe that is the longest held Americans ever, as hostages. Credible reports suggest that they are still alive.

Last year a number of Latin American ambassadors pledged to assist in resolving this hostage situation. In addition, the governments of other countries in Central and South America learned of the case and pledged their support in working to secure the release of Mr. Mankins, Mr. Rich, and Mr. Tenenoff.

The commitments of assistance from a number of these governments has been very encouraging. In July of last year, Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck committed to doing ev-

erything possible to secure the release of these three Americans. Unfortunately, despite all these pledges of assistance from other countries, the Americans remain as hostages.

Mr. Speaker, American citizens' lives are at stake, and now have been for over 5 years. We must continue our efforts on behalf of these men. I urge President Clinton, Secretary Albright, the State Department, and all other appropriate American officials to work to bring an immediate end to this tragic hostage situation. I urge the House to support House Resolution 277 to pledge our assistance in bringing David Mankins, Mark Rich, and Rick Tenenoff, home to their families.

I also again offer my continued to support, assistance and prayers to Mrs. Mankins, Mrs. Rich, and Mrs. Tenenoff and their families as they seek the release of their husbands and fathers. I call on all of my colleagues to stand firmly against terrorism of any kind.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) for his eloquent remarks in support of this resolution.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, 1993, armed Colombian guerrillas from the FARC organization crossed the border between Columbia and Panama and kidnapped three American missionaries of the New Tribes Mission. These innocent American citizens were then taken back into Columbia and held for millions of dollars of ransom.

Since that day almost 6 years ago, the fate of Rick Tenenoff, David Mankins, and Mark Rich remains unknown. Their families wait anxiously every day for some news of their loved ones. I want to applaud the FARC for their recent release of U.S. businessman, Donald Lee Cary who they held captive for more than five months, but I want to express my disappointment with the FARC for their silence on the issue of the New Tribes missionaries. The FARC guerrillas have chosen not to provide any information on the whereabouts of these missionaries. They won't even say whether they are still alive or not.

I want to commend our colleague, ROY BLUNT for introducing H. Con. Res. 277 asking the Colombian guerrillas to release these American citizens or to provide some information as to their fate. For the families, this is the least that can be done.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and I call on the FARC to release whatever information they have about these citizens.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, 1993, armed guerillas entered in Kuna village of Pucaro in Southern Panama and stormed the homes of Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Teneoff. The men were missionaries for new Tribes Mission who lived in the village with their families. The guerillas tied up the men in their homes and ordered their wives to prepare packages of clothing. Then they all—the gun-toting guerillas and the three American missionaries—disappeared into the night. The three men have not been heard from again—that was over 5½ years ago.

The three men are believed to be the longest held American hostages in our history.

It is believed the men are being held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia or FARC—an organization designated by the State Department as a terrorist group. It is believed the men were taken to Northern Colombia into an area controlled by the FARC. We know little else. We don't know whether the men are dead or alive. We don't know the exact location of whether they are being held. Very little information has become available.

For over 5 years, the families of these men have longed for the return of their loved ones—Mark has two daughters, David has a son and a daughter, and Rick has two daughters. These children have all spent the last years of their young lives without their fathers. Their mothers—Tania Rich, Nancy Mankins, and Patti Teneoff—have been without their husbands. They have spent each day praying for some shred of information that may give them a ray of hope.

They have lobbied the State Department and FB to do more. They have written to President Clinton. They have met with Latin American leaders who may have influence with the FARC. They have presented their pleas to Congress. They are speaking out and doing what they can. But we must help.

I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 277 which condemns the kidnapping of the New Tribes Missionaries and urges the United States government to do everything possible to press for their release. It sends the message that U.S. Congress cares about this case and is committed to working for the release of these men. Resolving these cases is never easy, but there be must be more the U.S. government can and should do.

We must try everything possible to help return these men to their families. The kidnapping of American citizens is not acceptable and must be punished. Indecisive or unenthusiastic intervention on behalf of the American government puts American citizens everywhere at risk.

My heart goes out to the Rich, Mankins, and Teneoff families. We are with you and will do what we can to help you.

I urge you to vote in favor of H. Con. Res. 277.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution and encourage my colleagues and the United States Government to highlight the plight of three missionaries from my district in Sanford, Florida, who are being held captive by a narco-terrorist group in Colombia. The Congress must ask every federal government agency to bring greater attention to the plight of these men and their families.

New Tribes Mission, founded in 1945, places missionaries around the world. With approximately 3,500 missionaries working in isolated areas worldwide, no one can dispute the courageous work and positive influences these dedicated individuals bring to so many. Their work, however, is sometimes marked by danger.

On January 31, 1993, three New Tribes Missionaries: David Mankins, Mark Rich, and Rick Tennenoff were taken from their families in their village in Pucuro, Panama by armed guerrillas, who crossed the nearby border back into Colombia. This was over five years ago! Still, these three husbands and fathers, believed to be the longest held U.S. hostages, have not been reunited with their loved ones.

They were not wealthy, well placed or international figures. They were there with limited resources on a mission of faith.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked closely with many of our colleagues in efforts to seek their release. We have made numerous inquiries with various U.S. government entities, including the White House, the State Department, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the intelligence community. We have also solicited support from human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, Pax Christi, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

We were joined by fifty-seven Members of Congress and U.S. Senators, in contacting foreign leaders and participants in the 1997 Iberian-American Conference on Human Rights urging their support in raising this issue with Colombia and with all relevant governments and organizations. While this effort was met with wide support, these men still have not been returned.

These three missionaries are not people of sizable wealth or corporate executives. They are families of modest means who certainly cannot afford large ransoms. Colombian guerrillas, largely funded by the drug trade, have nothing to gain from holding these men. The United States must not forget these American lives. These lives are of equal value to any American, even those of substantial wealth and power. This resolution emphasizes Congress's commitment to the cause of freeing these men.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, we must face the prospect of what this sad story holds for the children of these fine Americans. David Mankins has not seen his children, Sarah and Chad, get married. Rick Tennenoff's son has told his mother he would go and stay with the guerrillas just be with his father. And Jessica, Mark Rich's youngest daughter said, "I would give away all my toys, even Cubby [her teddybear], if it would bring Daddy back."—Heartbreaking. Let us not forget these men and their families. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 277, and hope that this effort further encourages those in power to act now & use every possible resource to free these American hostages, these devoted missionaries, these longed for husbands and fathers.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following statement for the RECORD regarding H. Con. Res. 277, the New Tribes Mission Resolution:

I invite all of my colleagues to join me today in approving legislation that I introduced, H. Con. Res. 277, the New Tribes Mission Resolution.

On January 31, 1993 three Americans, Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tennenoff were abducted from the Kuna Indian village of Pucuro in the Darien Province of Panama, and were taken to Colombia by the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC). These men, missionaries from the New Tribes Mission headquartered in Sanford, Florida, are now believed to be the longest held American hostages in Colombia.

After five years of uncertainty about the fate of these men, their families and other members of the New Tribes Mission deserve closure. Congress must take action to urge the missionaries' captors to come forward and release any information they may have on the fate and well being of these hostages.

My resolution expresses the sense of Congress that any individual or group with knowledge of the whereabouts of the New Tribes Mission missionaries be encouraged to come forward. It also seeks to bring international attention to the abduction and to pressure the Colombian government to release any information they may have about the fate of these men.

Accordingly, I welcome the support of all of my colleagues in approving this bipartisan and humanitarian legislation.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 277.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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CALLING FOR AN END TO RECENT CONFLICT BETWEEN ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 292) calling for an end to the recent conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 292

Whereas the 1991 ouster of the Mengistu dictatorship led to relative peace and stability in Eritrea and Ethiopia;

Whereas in 1993 Eritrea became independent after an internationally supervised referendum and the Government of Ethiopia accepted the result of the referendum;

Whereas the Governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia have worked closely on a wide range of issues over the past several years;

Whereas the Government of Eritrea and Ethiopia enjoy warm relations with the United States;

Whereas on May 6, 1998, a military confrontation erupted between Eritrea and Ethiopia, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of innocent civilians and the displacement of tens of thousands of people;

Whereas the peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia have suffered for decades due to war and manmade famines and do not deserve once again to suffer due to armed conflict;

Whereas the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia could destabilize the entire sub-region and lead to a massive humanitarian crisis;

Whereas the Governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia have both stated that they are committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict; and

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Rwanda, as well as countries in the region, have put forth proposals for resolving the conflict: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) calls on both Eritrea and Ethiopia immediately to bring an end to the violence between the two countries;

(2) commends the executive branch of the United States Government for brokering a