

SENSE OF THE HOUSE DEPLORING TRAGIC AND SENSELESS MURDER OF BISHOP JUAN JOSE GERARDI

SPEECH OF

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 1998*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 421, a resolution deploring the murder of Guatemala Bishop Juan Jose Gerardi.

In late July of this year, I joined my colleagues Representatives GEORGE MILLER and CIRO RODRIGUEZ on a three-day visit to Guatemala. The visit was organized by the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights. Our goals were to encourage the Guatemalan government to carry out a thorough investigation of the April 26, 1998 murder of Bishop Juan Jose Gerardi; to provide visible support to the Archbishop's Human Rights Office and other human rights organizations in Guatemala; to encourage the United States government to play a more active role in supporting efforts to improve respect for human rights in Guatemala; and to demonstrate full support for the implementation of the peace accords which have brought an end to 36 years of civil war.

Our delegation met with government officials, including Guatemala President Arzu, church leaders, and representatives of numerous community organizations. We paid special attention to the investigation of the tragic murder of Bishop Juan Jose Gerardi. Because of Bishop Gerardi's invaluable work in defense of human rights and the fact that he was killed only days after the release of the report, "Guatemala: Never Again," this crime necessarily has political connotations. If it is not resolved, it would be a devastating blow to the peace process and to domestic and international confidence in the implementation of these goals.

We were encouraged to hear of the government's commitment to aggressively pursue all leads, motives and evidence related to the tragic murder of Bishop Gerardi. Since late July, we have learned that the prosecution has made an initial request for information about the military officers whose names were originally provided by the Archbishop's Human Rights Office. It is vitally important that the prosecution go forward with an exhaustive investigation of the leads suggesting military involvement, just as it has been fully exploring other possible leads. The expeditious and judicious resolution of the investigation into Bishop Gerardi's murder is critical for the continuation of support for the peace accords.

Therefore, I rise in support of House Resolution 421, which calls for the Government of Guatemala to take all steps necessary to resolve the heinous murder of Bishop Gerardi; to continue its efforts to establish effective civilian law enforcement and judicial institutions; to make a renewed commitment to successfully implement the peace accords, especially those accords concerning human rights; and that the United States government provide all necessary support to the investigation of Bishop Gerardi's murder and to continue to support the full implementation of the peace accords.

EXECUTION OF BAHAI BELIEVER VIOLATES RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 10, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, human rights are universal by definition. Simply by being a member of the human race, every person has certain inviolable rights—those outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was created by the members of the United Nations fifty years ago.

Unfortunately, however, not every government in the world recognizes these rights. The Government of Iran recently gave the world a glaring example of the type of officially sanctioned depravity that can occur when rights of the individual are not protected—and in fact are actively violated by his or her own government.

On July 21st the Iranian government executed Ruhollah Rowhani in the town of Mashad. Mr. Rowhani, a married father of four, was not a criminal. He was a member of the Baha'i faith, and there is very credible reasons to believe that his death is a direct result of his faith. He was not accused of any crime that would be recognizable to us here in the United States or in most other places of the world. He was held incommunicado for nearly a year prior to his execution. He was not given access to lawyers. He was simply abducted by the government, held, subjected to a sham trial, judgment was passed, and then he was murdered.

The approximately 300,000 Baha'is who live in Iran are in an extremely precarious position that is highlighted by this extreme treatment of Mr. Rowhani. Although Baha'is are the largest religious minority in Iran, their faith is not recognized as a legitimate religion by the government. In fact, the theocracy in Teheran consider the Baha'i faith to be heresy and an anti-Muslim conspiracy.

Baha'is in Iran are labeled "unprotected infidels" and have no legal rights. Baha'is are prohibited from electing leaders, organizing schools or conducting other religious activities. All cemeteries, holy sites and Baha'i community property were seized after the Iranian Revolution in 1979. Baha'is are denied government jobs and pensions, and more than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university posts since 1979. Baha'is of school age are also barred from both 4 year high schools and universities, severely limiting economic opportunities. Baha'i marriages are not recognized and the right of inheritance is not recognized for Baha'is. In short, the Baha'i community in Iran is slowly being strangled through a regime of official persecution.

It is important to note also, that the Baha'is in Iran have never engaged in any illegal or anti-government activity that would in any way justify this type of treatment. In fact, it is my understanding that obedience to the civil law of the land in which they live is a principal tenet of Baha'i teachings. The repression of the Baha'is in Iran is purely based on religion and intolerance.

The overall situation facing Baha'is in Iran and the recent execution of Mr. Rowhani raise grave concerns for the fifteen other Baha'is being held by Iranian authorities on religious

charges. In particular, seven men have been sentenced to death and may be facing imminent execution.

I urge the Government of Iran to ensure the immediate safety of three Baha'is most imminently in danger of execution—Ata'ullah Hamid Nasirizdih, Sirus Dhabih-Musqaddam, and Hidayat-Kashifi—and to ensure that these men are afforded fair and public trials prior to any action being taken against them.

I also urge on the White House and State Department Administration to work through appropriate channels, including the United Nations, and to work with our allies and friends to make clear to the Government of Iran that the lives of all Baha'i prisoners must be protected and that this behavior is unacceptable and must stop. The rights of the Baha'is of Iran, and of all humans, are unambiguous. It is the responsibility of the Government of Iran to ensure these right for all their citizens.

BROTHER'S BROTHER FOUNDATION

**HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 10, 1998*

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, as Congress moves forward with consideration of the 1999 Foreign Operations bill, I'd like to call my colleagues' attention to the successful programs of the Brother's Brother Foundation (BBF), based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Using both federal and private funds, the BBF promotes international health and education through the efficient and effective distribution and provision of donated medical, educational, and agricultural resources.

An example of the international aid provided by the Brother's Brother Foundation is its public-private partnership to provide much-needed books to developing countries. BBF used U.S. government funding to ship half of the 40,000,000 privately donated books it received to 50 countries. The requested books are valued at \$340 million, and range from children's picture books to medical school texts. In the Philippines, for example, the program has been in operation for ten years, providing more than 8 million books for use by 15 million students in 38,000 schools and libraries. BBF works with U.S. Philippine Rotary Clubs to coordinate the collection and distribution of the books.

Another example of the important work that the Brother's Brother Foundation does is provide agricultural assistance to developing countries. BBF shipped 7,000 tons of donated corn and vegetable seed to 20 needy countries, including many new states like Armenia. This seed planted 22,000 square miles of farm land. The seed and the volunteer farming technical assistance that was provided with it helped to improve agriculture efficiency and increase rural family incomes. In the Republic of Georgia, for example, U.S. Agency for International Development representatives reported that "Production yields expanded 2 to 3 times." U.S. government funding provided 75 percent of the cost of shipping this seed overseas.

The value of non-profit organizations like the Brother's Brother Foundation are immeasurable. Their efforts are essential for the success of public-private partnerships. I ask my

colleagues to remember the Brother's Brother Foundation and organizations like it when voting on international development programs in the 1999 Foreign Operations bill.

COMMEMORATING THE HONORABLE FRANK K. RICHARDSON

**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 10, 1998*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, former Justice Frank K. Richardson. Frank K. Richardson, Retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California, has brought credit and distinction to himself through his illustrious record of public service, and it is appropriate at this time to commemorate the valuable leadership and dedicated service he has provided to his community and the people of the State of California.

Justice Frank Richardson was born in St. Helena, Napa County, California, and lived in various locations in Northern California, one of which was Sacramento, where he attended Marshall School. After he completed his freshman year in high school in San Jose, the Richardson family moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where Frank attended Germantown High School. Frank attended the University of Pennsylvania for his freshman year of college but then transferred to Stanford University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree "with Distinction" in political science in 1935. Frank was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, and graduated from Stanford Law School with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1938.

Frank became a member of the California State Bar in 1938, upon passing the bar exam, and began practicing law in Oroville in the law offices of retired Judge Hiram Walker. While practicing law, Frank immersed himself in the civic life of Oroville by serving as President of the Oroville Rotary Club, as a member of the Methodist Church, and as a Republican candidate for the State Assembly.

While residing in Oroville, Frank met Betty Kingdon, who he later married in 1943. They celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on January 23, 1998. The Richardsons' household has grown to include four sons and five grandchildren. During World War II, Frank served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army (Intelligence), participated in the European Theatre of Operations, and received two Battle Stars for his valor.

After the war, Frank and Betty Richardson decided to move to Sacramento, California a place they both love and which has been their home for the last 43 years. From 1946 to 1971, Frank practiced law, first as an associate to Sumner Mering, then as a sole practitioner for 23 years. During this time, Frank taught law classes at night in Evidence and Torts at McGeorge School of Law. In 1971, then-Governor Ronald Reagan appointed Frank Richardson as Presiding Justice of the Third District Court of Appeals in Sacramento. In 1974, Governor Reagan elevated Justice Richardson to the California Supreme Court, where he served for 9 years as an Associate Justice. In December 1983, Justice Richardson retired from the California Supreme Court.

Six months after his retirement from the California Supreme Court, and after a semester of teaching at Pepperdine University School of Law as its Distinguished Visiting Scholar, President Ronald Reagan appointed Justice Richardson as Solicitor to the United States Department of the Interior. In that capacity, Frank supervised the work of the legal staff of the Department of the Interior throughout the United States until his retirement from that position in July 1985.

In recognition of his skills as a lawyer and judge, and for his service to his community, state, and to the legal profession, Justice Frank Richardson has received honorary doctorates in law from Pepperdine University School of Law, Mid-Valley College of Law in Los Angeles, Western State University School of Law in San Diego, and the University of Southern California School of Law, which also made him an Honorary Member of its Order of the Coif Society. Justice Richardson served as a member of the Board of Visitors of Stanford Law School, McGeorge School of Law, Pepperdine University School of Law, Brigham Young University School of Law, and Whittier College of Law. Frank also was a member of the Board of Regents of the University of the Pacific and the Editorial Board for the University of San Francisco Law Review. In the years following his retirement from the California Supreme Court, Justice Richardson has served as Chairman of the Select Committee on Internal Procedures of the Supreme Court of California, as a member of both the Advisory Board of the National Institute of Justice and the California Commission on Campaign Financing, and as a member of the Board of Directors of FEDCO and the Board of Governors of the President Ronald Reagan Foundation.

In 1993, Justice Richardson was elected a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, an honorary organization of attorneys, judges, and law teachers whose professional, public, and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication of the welfare of their communities and to the highest principles of the legal profession. Frank was active in numerous state and local bar activities, including his leadership as President of the Sacramento County Bar Association, as a member of the Executive Committee of the State Bar, the Conference of Delegates, the Committee for the Administration of Justice, and the Committee of Bar Examiners, as Counsel to the California Commission on Uniform State Laws, and as a Fellow of the American College of Probate Counsel.

His attention extended beyond his professional interests to the local community, where he distinguished himself as President of the Sacramento World Affairs Council, the Sacramento Community Welfare Council, the Sacramento YMCA, and the Sacramento Lions Club, as an active community member in the United Crusade and KVIE-Channel 6, Sacramento's public television station, and as the founder and first President and member of the Board of Directors of the Methodist Hospital of Sacramento.

Frank Richardson served on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scouts of America, the Goodwill Industries of Northern California, and the Sacramento State College Association, and years later, after his retirement from the court, he served as Chairman of Sacramento's Bicentennial Commission.

I take great pleasure in commending the Honorable Frank K. Richardson, Retired Justice of the Supreme Court of California, for his outstanding record of judicial leadership, his long and distinguished record of public service, and his outstanding display of civic leadership. He is indeed a man worth emulating and exemplifies the standards those in his chosen profession seek to uphold.

RIVES CARLBERG—HOUSTON'S TOP INDEPENDENT ADVERTISING AGENCY

**HON. BILL ARCHER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 10, 1998*

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rives Carlberg advertising and public relations of Houston for 50 outstanding years of dedication and creative service to the people of Houston and the national business community.

Rives Carlberg, Houston's top independent advertising agency, creates award winning advertising, public relations and promotional campaigns for national and regional accounts. With clients such as Compaq Computer Corporation, Houston Chronicle, Igloo Products, Jiffy Lube, KFC, Pilgrim Cleaners, Rheem Manufacturing and Uncle Ben's Rice, Rives Carlberg calls itself the agency of Number 1 brands.

Rives Carlberg also dedicates its time and hard work to various community service projects in Texas, including Park People, the Houston Olympic Committee, Junior Achievement, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Sheltering Arms and Washington-on-the-Brazos.

In 1948, Rives, Dyke & Company was formed, specializing in business-to-business advertising. And in 1971, Smith Smith Baldwin Carlberg began specializing in retail and consumer advertising. In order to gain a major presence in the Southwest, the Nation's largest advertising agency, Young & Rubicam, purchased Rives, Dyke & Company in 1975. In 1978, Y&R merged the two companies to form Rives Smith Baldwin Carlberg/Y&R. In 1986, Chuck Carlberg, agency employees and the Sterling group organized a successful leveraged buyout from Y&R to form Rives Carlberg.

Chuck Carlberg, the president and chief executive officer of Rives Carlberg, is a recent board member of the American Association of Advertising Agencies and past governor of the Southern Region of the 4As. During his 30 years in the advertising business, Carlberg has received many prestigious creative advertising awards, including Clios, Tellys, National Addys and a gold medal in the New York Art Director's Club. He has also been named best creative director in the Southwest by Adweek magazine.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Chuck Carlberg and the Rives Carlberg family of employees as they celebrate their 50-year history of outstanding creativity and commitment to the advertising industry.