

my district, and I want to ensure that other up-standing Colombian citizens do not meet Maria Hoyos fate while trying to maintain a legitimate democracy in Colombia.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, Representative MARK GREEN of Wisconsin and a bipartisan group of co-sponsors brought this important resolution before our Committee.

In early March, three Americans were in Colombia trying to help an indigenous group when they were brutally murdered by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. The FARC—designated by the State Department as a foreign-based terrorist group—killed these people in cold blood. These senseless deaths have brought the toll of innocent American lives taken in Colombia by the FARC and the National Liberation Army to 15. As of today, 12 Americans are being held hostage by these terrorist groups. Moreover, we still do not know the fate of the longest held captives, Mark Rich, David Mankins and Rich Tenenoff, kidnapped by the FARC in 1993.

I have written to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to ask that the perpetrators of the murder of the three innocent Americans who are the subject of the resolution before us today be included under the Department of State's Counter-terrorism Reward Program. I recently sponsored legislation that increased the reward under this program to \$5 million. I hope that widely publicizing this reward in Colombia will speed the arrest and conviction of those responsible for this reprehensible crime.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to unanimously support H. Res. 181.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 181, which condemns the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—known as FARC—for the kidnapping and brutal murder of three American citizens earlier this year.

These individuals—including Terence Freitas, whose mother lives in my congressional district—were in Colombia only to provide assistance to the indigenous U'wa people in the northeast part of the country.

Although the FARC has admitted that their guerillas abducted and killed the Americans, they have refused to cooperate with Colombian or United States authorities to resolve the case.

This important resolution condemns the senseless murders and demands that those responsible for this heinous crime are swiftly brought to justice.

As we condemn atrocities committed by the FARC, we must also condemn the numerous extrajudicial killings carried out by Colombian paramilitary forces. The cycle of violence that has consumed Colombia and claimed the lives of these three innocent Americans will end only when all sides agree to lay down their arms and work together to achieve a lasting peace.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to speak about the disturbing situation in Colombia and the kidnapping and murder of three U.S. citizens, Terence Freitas, Ingrid Washinawatok and Lahe'ena'e Gay.

As a long-standing advocate for human rights and nonviolence, the conflict and violence in Colombia is incredibly alarming to me. Terence Freitas, an activist and student at the University of California-Berkeley, was a constituent of mine. Ingrid, Lahe'ena'e and Ter-

ence were traveling in Colombia as guests of the U'wa, a traditional indigenous community that is nonviolently fighting to protect their land from United States and Colombian petroleum developers.

Last week, along with other members of the House International Relations Committee, I had the opportunity to meet with Colombian President Pastrana. We learned a great deal about his new \$7.5 billion plan for "peace", economic redevelopment, and counter-drug efforts. It is my understanding that the Clinton administration is expected to ask Congress to fund \$1.5 billion of the plan, and that the administration's proposal may call for over half of the funds to support equipment and training for the Colombian police and military.

I am very concerned about this initiative. At more than \$500 million annually, this would nearly double the amount that our Nation provided to Colombia's security forces in 1999.

Some of you may have seen the poignant letter of May 22 written by the mother of Terence Freitas to the editor of the Washington Post. In the letter, Ms. Freitas writes that she has "watched in disbelief that some have used the murder of her son . . . and his two companions to justify an increase in military aid to Colombian armed forces." Ms. Freitas writes that she is distressed that the ideals that her son "lived and died for—nonviolence, indigenous sovereignty and justice" have been diminished by those who support militarization in Colombia.

I am a cosponsor of this resolution because I believe that those responsible for the murders of Terence, Lahe'ena'e, and Ingrid need to be arrested and brought to trial.

At the same time, as we speak out deploring their murders today on the House floor, I also believe that it is crucial to address our Nation's future policy toward Colombia. Any plan, with a focus on increased funding for training the Colombian police and military, is dangerously narrow and counterproductive.

In order to truly advance the peace process in Colombia and create stability for all communities in the country, we must attack the root causes for drug trade and violence of the FARC. This requires a more comprehensive policy approach to fund the elements of President Pastrana's plan that support economic development, human rights and an end corruption in the justice system in Colombia.

I challenge all of us to examine the proposal of the Colombia Government with this perspective. Ms. Freitas explains that Terence "clearly understood that the U.S. military and training assistance to Colombia would bring more violence from all sides. She leaves us with the following message, which I would like to convey to all of my colleagues:

"If our Congressional Representatives hear any 'wake-up call' following the execution of my son, I urge it to be this: Remember your high standards of justice and peace by refusing to further U.S. military aid to Colombia. Doing the hard work of peace takes a lot more guts than empowering more men with guns."

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON-LEE CONDEMN COLOMBIAN KILLINGS
(H. RES. 181)

OCTOBER 4, 1999

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 181. This resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives which condemns the murders of Ingrid Washinawatok, Terence Freitas, and Lahe'ena'e Gay.

On Feb. 25 of this year, three U.S. citizens—Ingrid Washinawatok, a member of the Menominee Indian Nation of Wisconsin, Terence Freitas of California, and Lahe'ena'e Gay of Hawaii—were kidnapped by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a terrorist and drug trafficking group fighting the government of Colombia. The three were involved in an effort to help the U'wa people of northeastern Colombia. The FARC brutally murdered the three Americans a week later.

The resolution strongly condemns the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC); notes the FARC has a reprehensible history of committing atrocities against both Colombian and U.S. citizens; states that Congress will not tolerate violent acts against U.S. citizens abroad.

These American activists were involved in humanitarian efforts to assist the U'wa people of northeastern Colombia. Prior to their kidnapping, they spend 2 weeks on the U'wa reservation trying to assist in developing education program using traditional culture, language, and religion. The death of Ingrid Washinawatok marks the first time that a Native North American woman died while performing human rights work among native people in South America.

FARC, a terrorist organization that has communist ties, has a history of committing atrocities against both Colombian and U.S. citizens. Established in 1966, it is the largest, best-trained, and best-equipped guerilla organization in Colombia. The goal of FARC is to overthrow the Colombian Government and its ruling class. Following the murders, FARC guaranteed that the perpetrators would be punished but refused to turn over the murderers to Colombian or United States officials.

H. Res. 181 strongly condemns the actions of FARC and calls for the government of Colombia to arrest and extradite those responsible for the deaths of the three individuals. Moreover, the bill urges the Federal Bureau of Investigation to use every available resource to see that those individuals responsible for the murders are brought to justice.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge unanimous support for H. Res. 181.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 181.

The question was taken.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER INTERFERENCE WITH POLITICAL FREEDOM IN PERU

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the

resolution (H. Res. 57) expressing concern over interference with freedom of the press and the independence of judicial and electoral institutions in Peru, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 57

Whereas interference with freedom of the press and the independence of judicial and electoral institutions in Peru contributes to an erosion of democracy and the rule of law in Peru;

Whereas freedom of the press in Peru is under assault, and the Department of State's Peru Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1998, found that "[t]he Government infringed on press freedom [. . . and] [j]ournalists faced increased harassment and intimidation";

Whereas the Department of State's Peru Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1997, found that "[i]ncidents of harassment of media representatives increased to such an extent as to create the perception of an organized campaign of intimidation on the part of the Government, specifically, on the part of the armed forces and intelligence services";

Whereas the Organization of American States' Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression has called on the Government of Peru to cease all official harassment of journalists and to investigate and prosecute all abuses of freedom of speech and of the press;

Whereas Freedom House now classifies Peru as the only country in the Western Hemisphere, other than Cuba, where the press is "not free";

Whereas the Department of State's Peru Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1997 states that Channel 2 television station reporters in Peru "revealed torture by Army Intelligence Service officers [and] the systematic wiretapping of journalists, government officials, and opposition politicians";

Whereas on July 13, 1997, the Government of Peru revoked the Peruvian citizenship of the Israeli-born owner of the Channel 2 television station, Baruch Ivcher, effectively removing him from control of Channel 2, leading the Department of State to conclude that "the Government's action in this case was widely interpreted as an attempt to prevent the station from broadcasting any more negative stories about the regime";

Whereas the Government of Peru has issued an INTERPOL warrant for Baruch Ivcher's arrest and brought criminal proceedings against him, against members of his immediate family, and against his former associates to secure lengthy prison sentences against them;

Whereas the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights found human rights violations against Baruch Ivcher by the Government of Peru in this case and on March 31, 1999, submitted the case to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights;

Whereas persecution of journalists in Peru is so grave that several Peruvian journalists have sought political asylum in the United States;

Whereas actions related to efforts to authorize President Alberto Fujimori to seek a third term in office have raised questions about the independence of the National Election Board in Peru;

Whereas the independence of Peru's judiciary has been brought into question since the dismissal of 3 Constitutional Tribunal magistrates on May 29, 1997, and by continuing control of judicial matters by the executive branch; and

Whereas the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has called on the Govern-

ment of Peru to reinstate the 3 dismissed magistrates, enabling the Constitutional Tribunal to rule on constitutional issues, to fully restore the National Council of the Judiciary's power to nominate and dismiss judges and prosecutors, and to cease the recurring practice of overruling, transferring, or removing judges whose decisions did not coincide with the views of the Government of Peru: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the erosion of the independence of judicial and electoral branches of the Government of Peru, the interference with freedom of the press, and the blatant intimidation of journalists in Peru constitute a threat to democracy in that country and are matters for concern by the United States as a member of the Inter-American community;

(2) the United States Government and other members of the Inter-American community should review the forthcoming report of an independent investigation conducted recently by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States on the condition of and threats to democracy, freedom of the press, and judicial independence in Peru; and

(3) representatives of the United States in Peru and to international organizations, including the Organization of American States, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, should make clear the concern of the United States concerning threats to democracy and violations of the rule of law in Peru.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) of the Committee on International Relations joined in introducing this resolution to underscore Congress' concern about the harassment of journalists and over signs that the independence of Peru's judiciary is being substantially undermined.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, CPJ, has documented "attacks that confirm our suspicion of a coordinated government campaign to discredit and undermine the independent media in Peru."

The continuing actions taken by the government of Peru against Baruch Ivcher, the Israeli-born owner of television station Channel 2, have become emblematic of government interference

with freedom of expression in Peru. These acts of intimidation were precipitated by Channel 2's exposés of abuses, including alleged torture and murder, by Peru's intelligence service.

The Committee to Protect Journalists asserts that the government of Peru "has continued to hound Mr. Ivcher, initiating legal action against him, harassing his family, and mounting an orchestrated misinformation campaign to discredit him."

Mr. Speaker, just today, a small opposition newspaper, "Referendum," stopped publishing amid allegations that the government of Peru applied pressure to force the newspaper out of business. Several members of this newspaper's editorial board used to work for Channel 2.

This resolution will put the House of Representatives on record expressing bipartisan concern over the erosion of the independence of the judicial and electoral branches of Peru's government and the intimidation of journalists in Peru. These concerns have also been heightened by Peru's effective withdrawal from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 57.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) in strongly supporting this resolution. It basically details two matters of significant concern as far as the history of democracy in Peru as well as that part of the world.

The first, as the gentleman from Nebraska has alluded to, is the disregard by President Fujimori for the independence of the judiciary and the failure to recognize some separation of powers in terms of upholding the constitutional prohibition against three terms of consecutive service by the President. The second is a clear case of abuse with respect to the freedom of the press which I agree should be seriously investigated by outside credible authorities. These are but two examples of threats to democracy in a country that is in a position to be a partner and an agent in cooperation with the United States in Latin America. But actions like this really threaten that relationship. And so it is important that we pass this resolution to send an appropriate message to Peru that they need to reverse these actions and get back to a more proper course toward democracy.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, Representative Lee Hamilton and I initially introduced this resolution in the 105th Congress to express our concern over interference with freedom of the press and the independence of judicial and electoral institutions in Peru. I am pleased that the Ranking Minority Member of our International Relations Committee, the gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. GEJDENSON joined me in reintroducing this resolution.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, which has repeatedly expressed concern to the Peruvian government for the safety of journalists covering the military and the National Intelligence Service, wrote to me earlier this year to strongly urge that I reintroduce this resolution. The Committee to protect Journalists informed me "Not only have we failed to receive an official response to any of our protest letters, but we continue to document attacks that confirm our suspicion of a coordinated government campaign to discredit and undermine the independent media in Peru."

I have been one of Peru's strongest supporters in Congress. There is no question that Peru has made it back from the brink of the abyss. Not so many years ago, Peru was a terrorized nation.

Peru has become a good partner in our war against drugs. The drop of coca prices in Peru to historically low levels provided a real opportunity to help farmers grow legitimate crops. I was pleased to encourage our European allies to join us in seizing this opportunity to promote meaningful alternative development in Peru.

Nonetheless, I continue to be alarmed with regard to the harassment of journalists and signs that the independence of Peru's judiciary is being substantially undermined.

The continuing actions taken by the government of Peru against Baruch Ivcher, the Israeli-born owner of television station Channel 2, have become emblematic of government interference with freedom of expression in Peru. These acts of intimidation were precipitated by Channel 2's exposés of abuses—including alleged torture and murder—by Peru's intelligence service.

The Government of Peru, which revoked Mr. Ivcher's Peruvian citizenship, issued him a new Peruvian passport. Nonetheless, the government of Peru has continued to pursue highly questionable legal proceedings against Mr. Ivcher and his family and against former associates. Recently, the former general manager of Channel 2, was sentenced to four years in prison. The Committee to Protect Journalists asserts that the government of Peru "... has continued to hound Mr. Ivcher—initiating legal action against him, harassing his family, and mounting an orchestrated misinformation campaign to discredit him."

Just today, a small opposition newspaper, Referendum, stopped publishing amid allegations that the government of Peru applied pressure to force the newspaper out of business. Several members of this newspaper's editorial board used to work for Channel 2.

This resolution will put the House of Representatives on record expressing bipartisan concern over the erosion of the independence of judicial and electoral branches of Peru's government and the intimidation of journalists in Peru. These concerns have only been heightened by Peru's effective withdrawal from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. These are matters of concern to United States and all nations of the Hemisphere.

Peru's good efforts in our shared fight against drugs deserve our recognition and strong support. However, the United States should not turn a blind eye to interference with freedom of the press and the independence of judicial and electoral institutions of Peru.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Res. 57, expressing the sense of Congress that the erosion of the independence of the judicial and electoral

branches of the government of Peru, along with the intimidation of journalists within the country, are major concerns of the United States. I also support the United States pursuit of an independent investigation and report by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States on threats to freedom and judicial independence in Peru.

The Constitution in Peru provides for freedom of speech and of the press. It provides for a judicial system free from the executive branch. Today, human rights reporting have provided an assessment of Peru that is causing concern. For although, the Constitution of Peru provides for these fundamental rights and privileges, recent actions are demonstrating the Government of Peru is limiting these rights.

The press in Peru represents a wide spectrum of opinion, ranging from left-leaning opposition views to those favoring the Government. In the greater Lima area alone, there are 16 daily newspapers, 7 television stations, 68 radio stations, and 2 commercial cable systems. The Government owns one daily newspaper, one television network, and two radio stations, none of which is particularly influential. However, in order to avoid provoking government retribution, the Peruvian press practices a degree of self-censorship.

Government accusations of treason against investigative journalists, the ordeal of Baruch Ivcher who lost control of his television station, harassment of media representatives increased to such a degree that it appears to be an organized campaign of intimidation on the part of the Government, are areas of concern for democratic institutions. A full report, by an independent counsel, is justified to understand the extent of the problem.

The Constitution provides also for an independent judiciary; however, documents allege in practice the judicial system is inefficient, often corrupt, and easily manipulated by the executive branch. As a result, public confidence in the judiciary is low.

There is a three-tier court structure: lower courts, superior courts, and the Supreme Court. A Constitutional Tribunal rules on the constitutionality of congressional legislation and government actions; a National judiciary Council tests, nominates, confirms, evaluates, and disciplines judges and prosecutors; and a Judicial Academy trains judges and prosecutors. The Government moved to limit the independence of the Constitutional Tribunal almost from its inception in 1995 and continued such efforts in subsequent years. By year's end, the Peruvian Congress still had not taken any steps to replace the three judges ousted from the Constitutional Tribunal after they voted against the interpretation allowing President Fujimori a third term. An action that seems to be punitive just due to its subject matter. This effectively paralyzed the Court's ability to rule on any constitutional issues for lack of a quorum.

The Peruvian Government cites its efforts to revamp its judicial system. It is commendable that administrative and technical progress is occurring in the area of caseload reduction and computerization but little has been done to restore the judiciary's independence from the executive. Of the country's 1,531 judges, less than half, only 574 have permanent appointments, having been independently selected. The remaining 957, including 19 of the

33 judges of the Supreme Court, have provisional or temporary status only. Critics charge that, since these judges lack tenure, they are much more susceptible to outside pressures, further crippling the judicial process.

Increased economic and social stability has resulted in a substantial increase in U.S. investment and tourism in Peru in recent years. In 1997, approximately 140,000 U.S. citizens visited Peru for business, tourism and study. About 10,000 Americans reside in Peru and over 20,000 U.S. companies are represented in the country. U.S. relations improved with Peru after the 1992 auto-coup when the country undertook steps to restore democratic institutions and to address human rights problems related to counter-terrorism efforts.

I urge my colleagues to support with me this effort designed to continue U.S. promotion of the strengthening of democratic institutions and human rights safeguards in Peru.

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support of H. Res. 57.

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 Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 57, as amended.

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

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Resolution expressing concern over erosion of democracy and the rule of law in Peru, including interference with freedom of the press and independence of judicial and electoral institutions."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1451) to establish the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1451

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings: (1) Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President, was one of the Nation's most prominent leaders, demonstrating true courage during the Civil War, one of the greatest crises in the Nation's history.

(2) Born of humble roots in Hardin County, Kentucky, on February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln rose to the Presidency through a legacy of honesty, integrity, intelligence, and commitment to the United States.

(3) With the belief that all men were created equal, Abraham Lincoln led the effort to free all slaves in the United States.