

as the “shocking, alarming rise in Federal police power.”

If we are going to have true justice in this country, we cannot end up with a Federal police state that allows the FBI and the Justice Department to do just anything they want, no matter if it means that an innocent man ends up behind bars for 30 years when they know he is innocent, and they covered it up and then attempt to continue to cover it up after the world knows all about it. This Salvati case has been on “60 Minutes.” Everybody knows about it; it has been all over the television and the news.

So I hope the gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BURTON) will continue the series of hearings that he has held trying to call attention to this horrendous abuse, this terrible miscarriage of justice that was done to Mr. Salvati, and I hope that people realize that we have a Federal Government that has gotten out of control here and they start opposing things like happened in this case.

#### TWO THOUSAND DETAINEES: AMERICA'S GULAG?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a matter of grave concern for those of us who value freedom and democracy in this country.

On December 14, Rabih Haddad, a prominent community leader and religious cleric in Anne Arbor, Michigan, was preparing to celebrate a major religious holiday with his wife and four children when a knock came at his door. There stood three INS agents who had come to take him away. Mr. Haddad is now being held in 23-hour solitary confinement several hundred miles away from his family, whom he is allowed to see only 4 hours a month. Mr. Haddad has been in jail for 76 days and has never been charged with a crime.

On November 24, Mazen Al-Najjar, a former university professor and religious leader living in Tampa, Florida, was rearrested by Justice Department officials. Professor Al-Najjar had already been held for 3 years in Federal prison on secret evidence until December 2000, when a judge ruled that allegations against him were baseless and ordered the government to release him. He is now being held in 23-hour lockdown in a maximum security prison. Professor Al-Najjar has been in jail for 96 days and still has never been charged with a crime.

In early October, Anser Mehmood, a New Jersey truck driver originally from Pakistan, was arrested by Federal law enforcement officials. His family was not allowed to visit him for 3 months, nor were they told of his whereabouts. Deprived of their only source of income, his wife and four

children have been forced to sell all of their belongings and now plan to return to Pakistan. Anser has been in jail for more than 140 days and has never been charged with a crime.

On September 18, Mohammed Refai, a legal resident of the United States, was informed that the 1-year extension of his conditional green card was being revoked. Then he was put in jail. The government denied him access to his lawyer for 2 days, and he remains in solitary confinement. Mohammad has been in jail for 162 days and has never been charged with a crime.

These are just a handful of the stories of people who have been swept up in Attorney General John Ashcroft's dragnet and who have been denied the most fundamental rights of due process and rule of law. But there are literally hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of such cases all over the country.

We do not know their names, and we do not know what they are being charged with. We do not know if they have access to legal assistance or even to their families. There are reports that many have been mistreated and denied access to their legal counsel and even visits by their families. We know that one such detainee has already died while in U.S. custody. But we do not know exactly how many others are being held because the Bush administration will not tell us. They will not tell us who they are, where they are, or why they are being held.

The ACLU and other domestic civil rights groups estimate there are as many as 2,000 individuals, most of them men from the Middle East and South Asia, who are now swept up in this administration dragnet. The number will likely increase in the coming months as John Ashcroft goes after thousands more so-called “absconders.”

We do know that one detainee, 55-year-old Mohammad Butt from Pakistan, died in custody at the Hudson County Jail in New Jersey. But the Justice Department offers little justice for those now caught in its snare.

The great irony is that all along the administration has said that we are hated because we are free; not because of what we are, but because we are free.

There is so much talk about how America is viewed abroad. Well, let us look at a recent headline: “The disappeared: Since 11 September, last year, up to 2,000 people in the United States have been detained without trial or charge or even legal rights. The fate of most is unknown. Andrew Gumbel investigates a scandal that shames the land of the free.”

A scandal that shames the land of the free, and most Americans do not even know it. But that is not from a newspaper in Pyongyang; it is not from a newspaper in Tehran. It is from a newspaper from London, one of the largest newspapers, in fact, in London, from the Independent.

If we want the world to understand who we are and what we stand for, we should bear in mind that everything we

say and do is broadcast all over the world, even if it is not broadcast right here in America. When what is being broadcast are mass arrests of young men and closing down of charities, then we can only expect insightful rhetoric from abroad. It is time we start living up to our own standards of freedom, equality, and justice.

#### LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS COULD FACE CHOICE BETWEEN TWO PASSIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I reluctantly rise to discuss an issue that troubles me greatly. For the past 16 years that I have served in this body I have tried to focus attention on the plight of the Nation's fire and emergency service providers.

Across this country, we have fought for their interests. We have fought for the career and volunteer firefighters in 32,000 departments. We organized the largest caucus in the Congress. We have an annual dinner each April which brings all the focus together. We have had President Clinton, former President Bush and all of our major party leaders come together to support them.

As we saw in the Washington Post 2 days ago, the good will we have developed is currently being undone by a resolution passed by the International Association of Fire Fighters, good friends of mine, supporters of mine, that tells their membership they can no longer volunteer in the course of serving the communities where they live. So a firefighter in the District of Columbia who lives in suburban Maryland or Virginia is no longer allowed on his own free time to serve the communities where he lives. If he wants to do that, he must give up his union card.

Madam Speaker, this is like saying that teachers, and I was a teacher for 7 years, should withdraw from the teacher's association if they want to tutor poor kids on weekends or after school, or even teach Sunday school. It is like telling doctors that they should no longer serve in clinics on their own time or be dismissed from the AMA. It is like telling professional athletes they should no longer play in charity games, raising money for good causes, or coach our youth teams. It is like telling lawyers that they should not belong to the American Bar Association if they do pro bono work.

Madam Speaker, one of the leaders, a paid IAFF leader and a member of the Rockville City Volunteer Fire Department, has estimated that 70 percent of all career firefighters volunteer in the communities where they live. The IAFF has now come out and said they can no longer do that.

I respectfully request our friends in the IAFF to reconsider this decision.

We will continue to support firefighters, career and volunteer. We will continue to fight for more funding to provide even for paid personnel where there are shortages. But this kind of a policy drives a wedge between career and volunteer fire and EMS people that is just, I think, unthinkable.

In fact, one of the leaders of the IAFF said it well: "Many of the smaller communities rely solely on volunteer stations and they stand to lose a lot. This is all about men and women who really just love being a firefighter. Volunteering on their days off, whether in their own county or nearby, keeps their skills fresh. This just unnecessarily drives a wedge between the careers and the volunteers, and that eventually hurts the public."

Madam Speaker, I was up at the World Trade Center 2 days after the disaster, and I saw thousands of firefighters from around the country working together with the New York City career firefighters. Does this mean that those career firefighters from other departments that went to New York City would lose their union cards if this were enforced because they were volunteering to help their brother firefighters in time of need?

I plead with my friends in the IAFF, for the sake of your own members, change this policy, so that we all can work together for the good of America's domestic defenders.

#### METRO AIRPORT JANITORS HAVE EARNED A FAIR WAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Madam Speaker, in the Detroit Metropolitan area, we recently celebrated the opening of a \$1.2 billion Midfield Terminal at our regional airport. Now, after millions and millions have been spent to build this terminal, and after billions and billions have been spent to bail out the airline industries, our airport is literally a mess because of \$3.55.

Now, \$3.55 may not seem like a lot of money, but to workers like James Hughes it is a lot. What is even more insulting is that his pay and benefits are being cut without negotiations with his collective-bargaining agent, the Service Employees International Union Local 79.

When the new Midfield Terminal opened and the contractor in charge of custodial services turned its back on James Hughes and his coworkers, they turned their backs on the SEIU Local 79, and they turned their backs on all the passengers who fly through Detroit's airport. They said to James Hughes and his coworkers, we will not pay you a living wage. In fact, we are going to cut your pay from \$10.90 an hour to \$7.35 an hour, and we will not give you the same health care benefits that you had before. This is an absolute outrage.

Well, you know what? James Hughes and his fellow janitors, they said that they are not going to pick up the trash, and the SEIU janitors walked off their jobs and let the garbage pile high.

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This new symbol of prosperity is supposed to be embodied in this new terminal. It is supposed to be clean and new, and it is supposed to be a sign that things are turning around at Detroit Metro. Well, instead, it had become a symbol of greed, a symbol of cronyism, a symbol of nepotism, and a symbol of corruption at this airport. It seemed that contracts, whether they are no-bid contracts handed out to political friends and family members or broken contracts with our janitors, remain a persistent problem at our airport and in Wayne County.

Well, it is high time that it stopped. On Thursday, the janitors who had previously cleaned Northwest's former home in the Davey Terminal, they are going to be holding a rally. They have had enough of this. They are tired. They are sick and tired of being sick and tired, and they will be standing up for justice. They will be standing up for dignity and respect, and they will be standing up for what is right.

A living wage is something that every worker ought to be able to have. A wage enough so they can feed their families, pay their rent, pay their mortgage, a pay that one should be respected for.

Madam Speaker, one cannot help but be reminded of the time when garbage piled high up all over Memphis, leaving a stench in the air. The mayor there at that time refused to treat city sanitation workers with respect. He refused to honor their work with a fair wage, and he listened more to his political cronies than he did to the elected representatives of the people. So the young Memphis janitors, represented by AFSCME United, they held rallies, they marched the streets, and then they brought in Martin Luther King, Jr., to fight their cause.

The second time he came was the tragic day in April which no one will ever, ever forget. Yet, sometimes we forget why he came to Memphis. He was there because he saw his brothers and sisters in a struggle. It was a struggle for civil rights, for social justice, and for economic equality; and he died fighting against poverty and supporting sanitation workers who were on strike in Memphis.

Now, nearly 34 years later, in a different city, at a different moment in our history, janitors and sanitation workers are still struggling for the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

Fredrick Douglas once wrote, "There is no progress without struggle." Well, these workers have been struggling for generations, and progress has become painfully, painfully slow to come. The time is now for those who care about working families to join them in their

struggle. The time has come for justice for janitors. I am here to say tonight, Madam Speaker, that I am proud to stand with the men and women of SEIU local 79 and their great President Willie Hampton for their fight for living wages and adequate benefits. It is time we move forward. It is time to act. And on Thursday, February 28, we will.

#### SUPPORT H.R. 2820 AND SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, we hear lots of lofty words and phrases uttered in this Chamber when it comes to honoring our military men and women and paying our debt of gratitude to our veterans who have served this country so nobly. But I have found that talk is cheap, and if one wants to know what is really important to the people who occupy this Chamber, one watches where the money goes. How do we use our resources?

I want to call to this Chamber's attention two things that have happened recently which negatively impact our Nation's veterans. We are in the process of imposing upon many of our veterans an annual deductible of \$1,500 in order for them to receive health care at our veterans' facilities. Madam Speaker, \$1,500, a new burden being placed upon our veterans.

In addition to that burden, there is an additional burden. In the past, veterans have been able to go to our hospitals and receive prescription drugs by giving a \$2 per prescription copay; \$2 per prescription. But, sadly, in early February of this year, that copay was increased dramatically by 250 percent. So now veterans do not pay \$2 when they get a prescription filled, they are required to pay \$7 for each prescription.

Now, at a VA hospital in my area, the average veteran gets over 10 prescriptions per month. If we take 10 prescriptions per month and we charge \$7 copay per prescription, that is \$70 a month, and many of our veterans get their medications for 3 months at a time. If we take 70 times 3, that is \$210. But what does this mean to the veteran who is living on a fixed income, a veteran who has served this country honorably and nobly, a veteran who has paid the price for the security needs of this Nation? This new burden for a veteran who takes 10 prescriptions a month amounts to \$600 per year. This is totally unjustified.

Madam Speaker, I would point out that we are doing this at a time when this House voted just a few days ago to eliminate the Alternative Minimum Tax, a tax that was placed on wealthy corporations, profitable corporations during the presidency of Ronald Reagan, because back in those days,