

grew as a result of the historic 1996 welfare reform act and it continues today as we fund the critical program known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Although 2002 brings an end to Ron Silver's legislative service, Mr. Speaker, I am certain Ron will continue serving his community and the great state of Florida for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of Florida's Congressional delegation, I salute Ron Silver, on his twenty-four great years of honorable service in the Florida legislature and wish him and his family the very best in the years to come. I'm proud to call Ronald Alden Silver my friend.

IN SECULAR INDIA, HINDU LIVES
WORTH TWICE AS MUCH AS MUS-
LIM LIVES

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, the government of India is compensating the families of those who lost their lives in the recent riots in Gujarat. While no amount of money makes up for the loss, this is a decent thing to do and I salute India for it.

However, Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to find out that apparently in the world's largest secular democracy, a Hindu life is worth twice as much as a Muslim life. According to News India-Times, the Indian government is paying out 200,000 Rupees each to the families of Hindus who were killed, but just 100,000 Rupees to the family of each Muslim killed.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is offensive that a country that claims it is democratic thinks that the life of one person or group is twice as valuable as that of another person or group. What if our government declared white lives twice as valuable as black ones, or vice versa? Would that be tolerated?

The article also notes that during the riots, "Muslim establishments were targeted in an organized manner—even when they masqueraded under Hindu names and were run in Hindu majority areas." This seems to indicate the government's hand in the planning of the riots, an impression that is reinforced by the fact that the police stood by and let the carnage happen.

This is simply part of an ongoing Hindu nationalist campaign to wipe out religious minorities. It is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker, and America must help to put a stop to it. We should stop all aid to India until all people enjoy equal rights and we should demand a free and fair plebiscite in Kashmir, Khalistan, Nagaland, and the other nations seeking to get out from under India's brutal occupation. These steps will help bring real freedom, stability, and prosperity to the South Asian region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the News India-Times article into the RECORD.

[From the News India-Times March 29, 2002]

MUSLIMS SUFFER BIAS EVEN AFTER THE RIOTS

AHMEDABAD—The state government has been booking those responsible for the Godhra carnage under draconian Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance (POTO), while those who targeted Muslims and their business es-

tablishments in an organized manner in the state are being booked under the milder Criminal Procedure Code. POTO allows a person to be held without bail for 30 days.

Rights activists here contended that this was yet another example of the state government's bias against the Muslim community, and called for the scrapping of POTO.

Earlier, Chief Minister Narendra Modi's government had announced compensation of Rs. 200,000 (\$4,166) for the victims of the Godhra tragedy, while the amount for those who died in the widespread retaliatory riots was fixed at half that amount, Rs. 100,000 (\$2,083).

Rights activists as well as journalists covering the riots have noted how Muslim establishments were targeted in an organized manner—even when they masqueraded under Hindu names and were run in Hindu majority areas.

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL
COURT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today a number of countries will ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, surpassing the 60 countries needed to bring the Rome Statute into force. Ratification of this treaty is a notable achievement for the new foreign policy of the European Union, which adopted a common position in support of ratification. Indeed many of our European allies and our other friends, such as Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, have all ratified this landmark international instrument.

Everyone agrees that those who perpetrate genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes must face justice, either before international tribunals or before the national courts of their own countries. And as we recently heard in the testimony before the Committee on International Relations, there may be situations, such as post-conflict societies, where it is simply impossible for national institutions to pursue prosecutions of such crimes. For example, the International Criminal Tribunals on the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda have done excellent work in those specific instances of gross violations of recognized international human rights norms.

While many Members of this House have expressed reservations regarding the exact form of this Court, we all must now recognize that it is a reality. Over 60 countries from every continent have determined that it may be appropriate at times for an international court, rather than their own national courts, to prosecute and try perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes committed on their territory. Given the concerns that have been expressed regarding the possibility of overzealous prosecutions coming from the Court, I believe that it is imperative that we now all work together to ensure that the Court is a responsible international actor that advances the cause of human rights and international accountability, and fulfills its promise as a worthy legacy of the Nuremberg Tribunal.

In order to achieve this end, I believe that the United States must remain engaged in the

creation of the Court and its institutions. In the Preparatory Commission meetings establishing the mechanics and operations of the Court, U.S. diplomats and other officials have played a key role in shaping this institution. While I have no illusions that the United States will ratify the Rome Statute anytime soon, it would be shortsighted for us to take steps to neutralize our ability to assist in this process. In particular, I call on the Administration not to "unsign" the Rome Statute. As a signatory and in our observer capacity, we can continue influencing the form of the Court over the course of the next year into an institution that can have the effect of supporting U.S. national security goals, not damaging them. That is what we should focus on, not actions that would isolate us further from our friends and allies.

Let us move forward constructively with respect to the International Criminal Court. If we do so, we may well be able to help advance the cause of human rights and international justice.

NATIONAL ORGAN AND TISSUE
DONOR AWARENESS WEEK

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week which begins April 21–27, 2002. As a nurse, I saw firsthand how transplants and the generosity of donors save lives. As a Congresswoman, I have been proud to help my constituents work through the process of transplant surgery, and bring awareness to the importance of donors.

A few years ago my office was fortunate enough to help a constituent, John Pellegrino of Floral Park, New York, navigate through the insurance maze. I'm pleased to note John celebrates his two-year liver transplant anniversary on April 13. However, John's anniversary is bittersweet, especially for his donor's parents, now also his good friends, Harold and Melinda Yarbrough of Louisiana. In the midst of facing the agony of losing their precious daughter Breann, the Yarbroughs gave life to John and six other people.

It is fitting to honor John and the Yarbroughs—as well as the thousands of transplant recipients and donors. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Congress first designated the third full week in April as National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week in 1983 (Public Law 98–99) to raise awareness of the critical need for organ and tissue donation and to encourage all Americans to share their decision concerning donation with their families. Bone grafts enable individuals to walk again while skin grafts save the lives of critically burned patients, and donated corneas prevent or correct blindness. Heart valves help repair critical cardiac defects. Today, more than 79,000 men, women and children wait for an organ transplant, without an increase in donation, that number will continue to escalate. Currently, 16 people die each day because there are not enough organs available for transplant. Every day 114 individuals are added to the national waiting list for organs.