

youth sacrificing so this nation could be a free nation.

I saw that they are concerned for American troops, the morale of the American troops. The concern that the Iraqi people had was that we would cut and run and leave before the job was done, before the Iraqi people were able to control their own country. But we will not cut and run, we will finish the job. It is not the way we do things in America, to run from a fight, liberating a country that wishes to be free.

And now we hear talk about Guantanamo Bay, the situation. Let me tell you something. Mr. Speaker, I have been to jails, I have been to prisons. I was a judge for 22 years, I was a prosecutor for 8. I have seen numerous jails, numerous prisons in the State of Texas and our Federal prisons. I know what jails are like. I know what prisons are like. And to compare Guantanamo Bay to a Nazi concentration camp, to the Soviet gulags is outrageous, it is an affront to those millions of people who died in those concentration camps.

My dad served in World War II. And as a teenager, he saw those concentration camps. He helped liberate them with other Americans. Recently I had the chance to see some of those concentration camps some 50 years later. And to say that Guantanamo Bay is like a concentration camp minimizes the death that occurred in those concentration camps in Germany. And it is an insult to these people that died there.

I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, that those people who talk and criticize our situation in Iraq, that they go to Iraq. I went there for that very purpose, to see our troops. And I think it is important that those people who criticize Guantanamo Bay, that they go to Guantanamo Bay and see that jail there.

That is why I am recommending and offering that we go there as Members of Congress, we go as soon as we can to see the situation firsthand. We need to understand that the people in Guantanamo Bay are terrorists. We talk about them being prisoners of war, but to be protected under the Geneva Convention, Mr. Speaker, a person must have a commander, they must wear a uniform, they must not take and have concealed weapons. They must kill civilians or the innocent.

And the terrorists that are in that jail down in Guantanamo Bay are not protected by the Geneva Convention because they violate these rules, these rules. And yet we hear of all of the bad things that are occurring.

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I think it is incumbent to see the situation firsthand and make our own determination because it is important that we not cut and run from this situation in Guantanamo Bay any more than we cut and run from Iraq.

CAFTA HURTS WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, many people do not think of trade agreements as an issue particular to women. But a briefing I held last week along with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS), and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN) made clear how disproportionately the proposed CAFTA agreement will negatively affect women.

We tend to forget about women in forgotten places like the sweat shop zones in Guatemala, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Costa Rica. But let me tell some of their stories.

One worker, woman in Guatemala describes the way supervisors treat workers in the maquiladora, the sweat shop where she works. She says, "Sometimes the supervisor grabs a piece of cloth you're working on and throws it in your face. Once when a supervisor did that to me, I finally grabbed the piece from him and threw it back in his face. I did not cry. If I had cried, I wouldn't have been able to answer him. Instead, I told him that he needed to start respecting the women that worked for him. I could have accepted it if he had just said the piece was no good, but to throw it in my face, I won't stand for that."

How about the thousands of women who work in the banana packing plants? Who speaks for them?

For the treatment that the woman in the textile company received, she earns \$68 every 2 weeks including over time and bonuses, working many more than 8 hours a day. She goes on to say, "The trousers we make cost about \$39.50 each. In 2 weeks we earn enough to buy 2 pairs. But do you know how many pants we have to produce every day? Our quota is between 400 and 700 trousers per day."

Another worker describes efforts to organize a union to represent women. She says, "The company used to fire workers without any cause. They did not always pay the workers their full salaries and there were lots of other problems, so the secretary-general said it would be a good idea to place an injunction. That's when the company started to intimidate the workers. The situation got really bad . . . when someone shot at one girl while she was buying tortillas and hit her in the ear. From then on everyone was afraid and did not want to continue fighting" for an organization to represent the women, an actual union.

Last year, a U.S. union official organizing in El Salvador was killed. No independent trade unions have been registered there in 4 years. In Guate-

mala only two collective bargaining agreements exist among more than 200 textile factories.

Now, U.S. Trade Ambassador Portman claims that poor enforcement is the only problem with Central America's labor regimes, not inadequate laws. Yet there are dozens of serious deficiencies in Central American labor laws. CAFTA does not require compliance with international labor standards like the freedom to associate and to bargain collectively, nor does it protect women against outright discrimination. And CAFTA offers no protection against weakening, gutting, or eliminating existing laws in the future.

We need trade that serves women and workers in all of our countries, not agreements that force women into these awful conditions and places a downward pressure on the wages and working conditions that women in America have fought so very hard for from the very beginning in the mid-1930s, women like my own mother who was the first member of my family ever to earn a living wage when she struggled for the formation of the first union at an auto parts plant in our community.

We do not want CAFTA to roll back standards for women of this hemisphere and this continent. Women of the Americas should not stand for it. CAFTA would devastate family farmers just like it did in Mexico under NAFTA when over a million and a half peasants were forced off their land and forced to migrate somewhere just to try to find a better way of life. And they end up working in these sweat shop zones or fleeing across our border, working under the table, not having a decent labor agreement under which their lives, and indeed their livelihoods, can be guaranteed.

Already over 60 percent of the workers in Central America in their factories, in the banana packing houses are women. They work in very low-skill, low-wage jobs with absolutely few labor protections. CAFTA would do very little to protect their labor rights in the sweat shops in which they spend the majority of their young years.

Women have reported forced pregnancy testing, sexual harassment, and even physical abuse in this sector where women assemble clothing, pack bananas, and try to eke out a living for themselves and their families.

I want to thank STITCH, a small organization that supports the voices of these women being heard here in the Congress of the United States.

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

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)