

Jarvik's first successful artificial heart implant in 1982.

Paul Winchell lived a life of unparalleled diversity. Whether making children smile or improving lives through innovation, he dedicated his talents to the betterment of his surroundings, and I request that we honor him for a life well lived.

USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM
PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3199) to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes:

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to say that I will be voting for H.R. 3199, the USA PATRIOT and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act, with the expectation that this bill's flaws will be fixed in conference negotiations with the Senate.

I support reauthorizing the PATRIOT Act because it provides for the continuation of much-needed, modernized criminal and intelligence investigating tools that bolster the ability of federal authorities to combat the threat of terrorism. However, I believe that these powers should be properly tailored to ensure that the legislation meets its intended purpose and does not allow for unnecessarily broad searches and surveillance of innocent Americans.

The bill we are considering today takes many good steps towards reauthorizing the tools necessary to combat terrorism. However, I believe that this bill can be improved by tightening the ability to conduct roving wiretaps and inserting provisions to re-evaluate measures to assure accountability and effective congressional oversight. Despite my concerns with H.R. 3199, I am going to vote for this bill based on the expectation that this bill's shortcomings will be significantly improved during negotiations with the Senate.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION
ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006
AND 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2601) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes:

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment and the effort to bring attention to the murders of more than 400 women and girls over the past 12 years in the border town of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico and Chihuahua City, Mexico. The latest victims of

this violence, two 7- and 10-year-old girls, were raped and brutally murdered in May.

As the author of House Concurrent Resolution 90, which has garnered more than 100 bipartisan cosponsors, I know we must do more to help end these murders, bring the true perpetrators to justice, and bring closure to the families of victims who have disappeared but their bodies never identified.

Women and young girls from all parts of Mexico have migrated to Ciudad Juárez, just 5 minutes from the U.S. border, in hopes of finding work, including jobs at American-owned maquiladoras. Women have been kidnapped on their way home from work at the maquiladoras, and many are later found in deserted or abandoned areas—with their bodies showing signs of rape, torture and mutilation.

I have worked closely with my House and Senate colleagues on this resolution and other efforts to encourage the Bush administration to put pressure on the Mexican government to protect the women in Ciudad Juárez and bring their murderers and rapists to justice.

This spring, I worked with Senator BINGAMAN from New Mexico to ensure USAID funding for independent forensic investigators from Argentina to work in Ciudad Juárez. These independent investigators are working to identify up to 70 victims who up until now have been nameless casualties of horrific violence. The Reyes amendment, as well as my resolution, states the importance of these independent, impartial efforts.

I was also pleased to learn that the United States Ambassador to Mexico, Tony Garza, traveled to Ciudad Juárez yesterday to meet with the independent forensic investigators and the District Attorney for the State of Chihuahua. It is important that the United States continues to work with Mexico not only to identify remains of women already murdered, but also to thoroughly investigate these crimes and bring an end to the murders.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, May 3, 2005.

Mr. ADOLFO FRANCO,

Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Latin American and the Caribbean, U.S. Agency for International Development, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. FRANCO: As you know, we are very concerned about the murders and disappearances of women in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua, Mexico. We have visited Ciudad Juárez and have led Congressional Delegations to Juárez on several occasions, and we recently introduced Congressional Resolutions (H. Con. Res. 90 and S. Con. Res. 16) encouraging the U.S. government to help Mexico resolve this tragedy.

In our visits with the families of missing and murdered women, they have told us that they are requesting the services of independent experts to help identify their family members. There are more than 60 unknown victims in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua that require forensic and DNA testing. There are also families that are requesting identification services because they have credible doubts about the results of prior forensic testing.

It has been our understanding that USAID had been making progress to assist in this very important forensic effort to identify all of the unknown victims. However, without any rationale, we have been informed that USAID will no longer be able to assist in the effort to secure independent scientists to conduct exhumations and forensic testing.

We have attempted to call you to find out why these efforts have been stalled, without

success. We, along with our other congressional colleagues, are committed to alleviating the anguish and uncertainty of many families of their missing and murdered family members. Please provide us with a detailed explanation as to whether or not USAID will be able to fund independent forensic testing to help identify the remains of the missing or unknown victims. A timely response would be appreciated by May 11, 2005.

Sincerely,

HILDA L. SOLIS,
Member of Congress.
JEFF BINGAMAN,
U.S. Senator.

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT,

WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 31, 2005.

Hon. HILDA L. SOLIS,

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN SOLIS: Thank you for your inquiry of May 3, 2005, concerning the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) forensic capacity building program in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua. We share your concerns and understand the anguish of the numerous families of missing and murdered women in Chihuahua. We are committed to provide technical assistance to the government of Chihuahua for criminal justice reforms so that both countries can collaborate in finding solutions and bringing an end to this tragedy.

USAID appreciates your acknowledgement of the progress the Agency has made in addressing the myriad of inter-related justice concerns in Ciudad Juárez. While not a typical area of assistance, given the importance of supporting the State's interest in bringing emotional closure and relief to the victims' families, and its close relation to our criminal justice reform objectives, we are in the process of securing final approval to support forensics capacity building in Chihuahua.

In the meantime, USAID has been instrumental in bringing together the state Attorney General and the internationally-respected Argentine Forensic Team. Last week, at a meeting facilitated by our USAID Mission in Mexico, Attorney General Patricia Gonzalez not only agreed to have the Argentine Forensic Team identify up to 70 bodies, but also agreed to assume some of the financial responsibilities.

With the approval to fund forensic capacity building work and training of related law enforcement personnel under our criminal justice program, USAID will be prepared to contribute up to an estimated \$300,000 for laboratory fees and forensics training. We are working closely to ensure that the identification of these bodies by independent top caliber scientists will be a collaborative, binational effort.

We truly appreciate your support and recognition of USAID's ability to provide the necessary technical assistance to the State of Chihuahua. We are trying to expedite our internal bureaucratic hurdles; and request your kind patience and confidence that soon, USAID along with the Argentine Forensic Team will bring relief to many Mexican families.

Thank you, once again, for your concerns and interest in this matter. We will keep you closely updated on USAID activities and developments related to Ciudad Juárez. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

J. EDWARD FOX,
Assistant Administrator,
Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs.