

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CURRENT SITUATION IN DARFUR

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last week the House Committee on Foreign Relations held an important hearing on the current situation in Darfur. I am grateful to Chairman TOM LANTOS for keeping this critical issue in the spotlight of the committee.

President Omar Hassan al-Bashir has proven that he considers the people of Darfur to be merely pawns in a game that he is playing with the international community. Even as his representative is sending a letter to the UN Secretary General accepting the Heavy Support Package that is supposed to lead to a joint UN-AU protective force in the region, we are receiving news reports that his government is flying arms and heavy military equipment into Darfur under the disguise of UN and AU aircraft in order to fuel the conflict.

The gulf between Bashir's actions and his words is as wide as the callous attitude I encountered when I met with him personally in Khartoum and the desperate, deeply grieved look on the faces of the refugees I met in the camps of Darfur. It is time for the global community to stop considering Bashir as a legitimate negotiating partner and to start treating him as he is—the despotic tyrant responsible for more than 400,000 deaths and 2 million people displaced from their homes in Darfur. That is in addition to the 2 million dead and 4 million who were displaced during the war in the south.

I welcome President Bush's announcement last week that our government will be taking several new steps if the Sudanese Government does not meet its commitments. I strongly urge the President to make that window of opportunity for Bashir to finally follow through on his word extremely short. Bashir has long since lost any entitlement to one day more than is absolutely necessary to establish peace in Darfur.

In order to be effective, however, the efforts of the United States must be joined by those of the international community. We must ALL decide that NOW is the time to end this crisis. Our partners on the UN Security Council should agree immediately to the resolution that will be introduced by the United States applying new sanctions against the Sudanese Government and any individual that violates human rights or obstructs the peace process. Particularly given the revelations of the government's continued military support to the Arab militias, the Security Council must also impose an expanded embargo on arms sales to the government of Sudan, prohibit Sudan's government from conducting any offensive military flights over Darfur, and strengthen the international community's ability to monitor and report any violations.

The Government of the People's Republic of China, in particular, should take a leadership

role in ending the Darfur conflict. Instead of lending money to Bashir for a new presidential palace, the Chinese Government should be pressuring him to enable the people of Darfur to live in their own homes in peace and security. I have long exhorted the Chinese Government to stop the reprehensible violation of the human rights of its own people, and I have signaled the upcoming 2008 Olympics in Beijing as a singular opportunity for the international community to insist on the respect of those rights. I applaud the outstanding efforts of Ms. Mia Farrow, one of our distinguished witnesses at the hearing, to galvanize the world to object to China's hosting of the Olympics at the same time it is ignoring the plight of our brothers and sisters suffering in Darfur. I would encourage my colleagues here in Congress to join these efforts with respect to the Olympics and to seek other measures to end the genocide.

### COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S 59TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, today we commemorate Israel's 59th birthday. We all know some of the reasons why our 2 countries remain so close—an appreciation of democracy, human rights and peace, as well as a commitment to fighting terrorism and radicalism. But beyond the obvious lie a remarkably similar national narrative which has shaped our values and sense of national purpose.

In his recent book "Power, Faith and Fantasy: America in the Middle East," Michael Oren examines that narrative as well as the rich history of American support for a Jewish state in Israel. When William Bradford and the persecuted Puritans landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620, Bradford exclaimed "Come, let us declare the word of God in Zion." That's because the Puritans saw themselves as the New Israelites. They believed that God had finally delivered them from bondage to their new promised land. There, in freedom, they could shine a glowing light for the rest of the world to see. During the American Revolution, Oren describes, our leaders drew strong parallels to the Jews' struggle for repatriation. Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin even proposed for the Great Seal an image of Moses leading the Children of Israel toward the Holy Land.

This longing for freedom and tolerance in a new homeland also spawned the American democratic experiment. While our democracy remains imperfect, it has been our vision of a new, exceptional land that has motivated us to make America the greatest beacon of hope in the world. The Israelis are driven by similar desires.

Fifty-nine years ago today, Jews declared a state of their own. Several thousand had been

in Nazi concentration camps just a few years prior. In Israel, they saw a 2,000-year overdue opportunity to live free of persecution in their ancestral homeland. But before they could rejoice, five Arab armies attacked the nascent state on all fronts. Israel, despite long odds, emerged victorious and finally celebrated its victory. Still, it was bittersweet, since they had lost 6,000 people, at least 1 percent of the population.

Israel chose the song Hatikva, or "The Hope," as its national anthem. Fittingly, in a small Democracy perpetually terrorized by hostile enemies surrounding its territory, hope has sustained it. Israel's territory, devoid of natural resources, has been transformed into a prosperous state. Just as the United States has represented hope to the rest of the world for years, so too does Israel represent the limitless possibilities of freedom and hope.

### HONORING PATRICK TURLEY OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS, RECIPIENT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S PHOENIX AWARD FOR SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER RECOVERY

#### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor today to acknowledge Patrick Turley from Palmer, Massachusetts upon being named the recipient of the Small Business Administration's Phoenix Award for Small Business Disaster Recovery.

Patrick Turley, President of Turley Publications, received the Phoenix Award in Washington, DC today for his tremendous commitment to his community. SBA Administrator Steven Preston describes recipients of these awards as "individuals [who have] displayed tremendous courage and selflessness in the midst of the most devastating disasters ever experienced by our Agency." The SBA also describes the Phoenix Award as an acknowledgement of an individual's heroic efforts, and as "a token of appreciation for their support of the physical and economic recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast and New England States."

Turley Publications is one of New England's largest printers of community and university newspapers. Located in Palmer, Massachusetts, the company was founded in 1962 when Patrick H. and Thomas A. Turley purchased the Palmer Journal & Monson Register. From these humble beginnings, this locally owned family business has grown from 1 weekly newspaper into a chain of 15 weekly newspapers ringing the Springfield market and 3 monthly specialty publications with national circulations.

In addition, Turley Publications prints student newspapers and magazines for the 5 sister colleges in the Springfield/Holyoke region—as well as for Harvard University, Yale

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