

marching crowd was dispersed under the flying bullets and I had to hide in a restaurant. And the wife of the restaurant owner sent me back to the monastery in Tha Ke Ta at 7 p.m. with her car. At that night, security forces came in with five army trucks and tried to raid the monasteries in Tha Ke Ta. As alarmed by the monks, hundreds of people from the neighborhood came in time to intervene the attempts of security forces, and therefore they left without success. And again, on September 29, at 1 a.m., security forces came to raid the monasteries with 10 army trucks. Local residents gathered quickly and defended the monasteries from the raid of the soldiers, and therefore, they withdrew. However, a civilian was shot to death and his body was stolen by the security forces.

Therefore, I fled to Taung Twin Gyi Township on September 30 to hide. When I came back to Rangoon stealthily on October 8, I met with a monk, who is friend of mine, was arrested on September 27 and then released. He told me that he was forced to disrobe in prison and beaten throughout interrogation. The interrogators show him photos of monks leading the protest and asked him to expose who they are. He saw my photo among them. And that's why, he suggested me to run away and hide. Therefore, I left Rangoon immediately and then led a secret journey to Thai-Burma border, where I reached on November 7, 2007. Then, as assisted by the United States Government and Congress, I arrived to the United States on March 11, 2008, as a refugee.

The objectives of the peaceful protests in Burma, led by Buddhist monks, students and people are for releasing of all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and realizing of a meaningful and time-bound dialogue between the military junta and democratic forces for mutually acceptable political changes. As long as the military junta continues to listen to the voices of the people of Burma and oppress the people by using violence, peaceful protests by monks and the people will continue. The only way to stop the violence of the military junta is an effective and decisive action from the U.N. Security Council. Therefore, I would like to request the United States Government to try to get the effective resolution from the UNSC by organizing the members

of the UNSC, especially China and Russia, to help the people of Burma.

Thank you.

HONORING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
ACTION AS THEY CELEBRATE
THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the New Haven community in celebrating the 40th anniversary of Christian Community Action. For four decades this outstanding agency has been providing invaluable services to those most in need and I am proud to wish them the very best as they mark this important milestone.

The story of Christian Community Action begins with a home on Congress Avenue destroyed by fire and a group of ecumenical Catholics and Protestants looking for a way to help. Since that time, Christian Community Action has grown and evolved into a well-respected resource for individuals and families in need as well as a vocal advocate for the impoverished, working to change the systems which perpetuate poverty and injustice. Through the extraordinary vision and commitment of its leadership, Christian Community Action has made all the difference in the lives of many.

Reverend David Nehring became the first director of Christian Community Action in 1967 and it was under his direction that the organization's mission was developed and their first emergency food program was started. Just 3 years later, Reverend Nehring supervised the agency's move to its current home at 168 Davenport Avenue, adding five apartments which were used to provide emergency shelter. It was under the direction of the center's second director, Reverend Phil Grigsby, that the agency became involved in the develop-

ment of the New Haven Fuel Bank and that the adjacent property at 166 Davenport Avenue was purchased providing three additional apartments. Reverend Karl Hilgert became the agency's third director in 1981. It was through his vision that Christian Community Action opened the Sylvan Avenue Shelter site adding another ten emergency apartments and that the agency began increasing its social service and case management programs for the residents of its emergency housing.

In 1988, Christian Community Action's fourth and current director, Reverend Bonita Grubbs, took the helm and it has been under her nearly 20 years of outstanding leadership that the agency has substantially grown. Today, Christian Community Action not only provides emergency food, housing and support for those facing unexpected crisis such as fires and evictions, but is now actively involved in helping families to attain self-sufficiency through a myriad of innovative initiatives. The Stepping Stone Transitional Housing Program, Health Advocacy Voices Emerging Network, Mothers for Justice, and the Program for Internships, Vocational Opportunities and Training program are just a few examples of how Christian Community Action is identifying needs within our community and working to actively address those issues impacting the poor and those who often cannot find a voice.

For the last 40 years, Christian Community Action has been a beacon of hope for those most in need. Through their advocacy and social services, this organization has touched the lives of thousands throughout Greater New Haven and across Connecticut. I am proud to stand today to extend my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to all of those, past and present, whose involvement with Christian Community Action and commitment to its mission has made this organization such a success. It is difficult to imagine what our community would be like without that compassion and generosity. Happy 40th anniversary and my very best wishes for many more years of continued success.