

reasons, the U.S. government has not had special concerns about the source and use of the nearly \$4 billion in remittances sent last year by Salvadorans in the United States to their home country, allowing the free movement of that large sum. The government of El Salvador has shown itself to be a reliable and trustworthy counterpart regarding U.S. national security.

CURRENT U.S. POLICY ON REMITTANCES TO EL SALVADOR IS BASED ON A STRONG STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP

In the context of excellent relations and close cooperation, the U.S. government has not had special security concerns about the source and use of nearly 4 billion dollars per year (2008) sent by Salvadorans in the United States to their home country. The current government of El Salvador has shown itself to be a reliable and trustworthy counterpart regarding U.S. national security.

FMLN IN GOVERNMENT RADICALLY CHANGES THE EQUATION

If the FMLN enters the government of El Salvador following the presidential elections scheduled for March 2009, it will mean a radical termination of the conditions that underlie the unrestricted movement of billions of dollars a year and that permitted the granting of TPS in the first place and its continued renewal. The U.S. government would have no reliable counterpart to satisfy legitimate national security concerns, especially those regarding the threat posed by pro-terrorist groups and the providing of funding for those groups.

FMLN IN GOVERNMENT COULD REQUIRE TERMINATION OF TPS

Therefore, if the FMLN enters the government in El Salvador it will be necessary for the U.S. authorities to consider all available information regarding the ties of the FMLN to violent anti-U.S. groups and designated terrorist groups and, on that basis, proceed toward the immediate termination of TPS for El Salvador.

FMLN IN GOVERNMENT COULD REQUIRE CONTROL OF REMITTANCES

In many instances, pro-terrorist groups conduct fundraising in the United States, and special controls and restrictions on the flow of funds have been applied where necessary. Given the pro-terrorist nature of the FMLN and its ties to designated terrorist groups, if the FMLN enters the government in El Salvador, it will be urgent to apply special controls to the flow of remittances from the United States to El Salvador, a sum that is currently \$4 billion per year.

This review would examine and consider the termination of the flow of money remittances to El Salvador, either from our country, in our currency, or using our financial system and our means of land- and space-based telecommunications.

U.S. PROHIBITION ON DESIGNATED FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

The U.S. Department of State has expressed the ramifications, based on U.S. law, of the designation of foreign terrorist organizations (FTO):

It is unlawful for a person in the United States or subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to knowingly provide "material support or resources" to a designated FTO. (The term "material support or resources" is defined in 18 U.S.C. §2339A(b)(1) as "any property, tangible or intangible, or service, including currency or monetary instruments or financial securities, financial services, lodging, training, expert advice or assistance, safehouses, false documentation or identification, communications equipment, facilities, weapons, lethal substances, explosives, personnel (1 or more individuals

who may be or include oneself), and transportation, except medicine or religious materials."

18 U.S.C. §2339A(b)(2) provides that for these purposes "the term 'training' means instruction or teaching designed to impart a specific skill, as opposed to general knowledge." 18 U.S.C. §2339A(b)(3) further provides that for these purposes "the term 'expert advice or assistance' means advice or assistance derived from scientific, technical or other specialized knowledge."

Representatives and members of a designated FTO, if they are aliens, are inadmissible to and, in certain circumstances, removable from the United States (see 8 U.S.C. §§1182 (a)(3)(B)(i)(IV)-(V), 1227 (a)(1)(A)).

Any U.S. financial institution that becomes aware that it has possession of or control over funds in which a designated FTO or its agent has an interest must retain possession of or control over the funds and report the funds to the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

FMLN IN GOVERNMENT WOULD FORCE A CHANGE IN U.S. IMMIGRATION PRACTICES REGARDING EL SALVADOR

Since the 1980s, the United States has maintained a lenient immigration policy toward Latin Americans, particularly Central Americans, and has not significantly enforced its laws. In the past decade, successive Salvadoran governments, offering Washington credible assurances of security and intelligence cooperation, have asked the U.S. for continued leniency toward their citizens who enter and work in the United States illegally. However, if a pro-terrorist party enters government in El Salvador that creates a radically different strategic reality and the U.S. will be compelled to change its immigration enforcement policy.

PRO-TERRORIST PRACTICES BY FMLN MAKE IT AN UNTRUSTWORTHY COUNTERPART

Based on the intimate relations between the FMLN and narco-guerrilla FARC terrorist organization in Colombia, if the FMLN were to enter government in El Salvador, the U.S. will have no alternative but to apply maximum lawful security measures to Salvadoran nationals living and working in the country illegally without valid identification, visas, work permits, and related papers.

The Department of the Treasury may be forced to use its legal authority to monitor, control, delay, or terminate the movement of remittances and other money transfers to El Salvador, and the Department of Homeland Security may be compelled to end TPS and to undertake a massive review of Salvadoran nationals residing in or entering the U.S. unlawfully.

TO RAPIDLY TERMINATE THE FLOW OF REMITTANCES, HOMELAND SECURITY MUST PREPARE A CONTINGENCY PLAN

The United States must be prepared to apply, on an urgent basis, the full array of legal instruments available should circumstances after the Salvadoran election require the urgent termination of the flow of remittances to that country. Under U.S. law and in accordance with our national security policies, the immediate responsibility for preparing these plans resides with the Department of Homeland Security, working in conjunction with the Department of the Treasury and other agencies of the U.S. government.

FACTS ABOUT THE FMLN LEADERSHIP

Leadership of FMLN is hostile to U.S. FMLN, in power, would follow anti-U.S. agenda of Venezuela's radical president Hugo Chavez and join Cuba, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras in pro-Chavez axis. Flags of Venezuela, Cuba and Iran are carried at FMLN rallies.

Chavez helps finance FMLN campaign by selling cut-rate diesel fuel to FMLN's "ALBA PETROLEOS". Reselling the fuel (20% of the diesel sold in El Salvador) gives FMLN profit estimated at \$20 mn.

SALVADOR SANCHEZ CEREN is FMLN's candidate for Vice President. In 2001, four days after 9-11, Salvador Sánchez Cerén led march in San Salvador that celebrated attacks by Al-Qaeda and burned American flags. FMLN issued a communiqué that the U.S., for its policies, was itself to blame for being attacked.

Sánchez Cerén is the FMLN commanding general whose alias was "Leonel Gonzalez". Between 1986 and 1990, he approved 1,200-1,500 assassinations according to investigation reported by John R. Thomson in the Washington Times (November 2008). Cerén, a hard-core communist, purged party leaders seen as insufficiently radical. He and Merino dominate (and if necessary could eliminate) Mauricio Funes, their figurehead presidential candidate.

JOSE LUIS MERINO (code name "Ramiro"), de-facto leader of FMLN, helped arrange the diesel fuel deal with Chavez. In 2005 interview, Merino said El Salvador should model itself after Chavez's Venezuela, and that USSR was "one of the most just" political systems on earth.

FMLN, like Chavez, is ally of designated terrorist groups and of state sponsors of terror, including FARC, Cuba and Iran. FMLN contains clandestine armed groups (BPJ, 'El Limon', BRES), that stage violent actions, killed a policeman, and attacked presidential convoy.

FARC (Colombian narco-terrorists)

Merino is implicated in arms trafficking with FARC. In raid on a rebel camp last year, Colombian military seized computer of FARC leader Raul Reyes. An e-mail from Iván Márquez, FARC guerrillas' primary contact with the Venezuelan government, showed Merino to be the link with certain arms dealers.

IRAN

Chavez introduced FMLN and Iran at meetings in Nicaragua. With flights from El Salvador to 10 U.S. cities and large FMLN network in the United States, Salvador would be important beachhead for Iran, a state sponsor of terror. Iran opened large embassy in Nicaragua and is building relations with Honduras.

CUBA

FMLN is close ally of Cuba, a state sponsor of terror. Castro played key role creating FMLN as an armed revolutionary force, uniting five Salvadoran extremist groups under one banner.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Health Services Award winner is Barbara Tofani of Hillsborough, where she currently works as a registered nurse.

Since 2005, Barbara has been the director of the Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center in Raritan Township.

As director of The Center for Nursing and Health Careers from 2001–05, she was responsible for developing and implementing a strategic plan to address the health care workforce shortage in New Jersey.

I am pleased to congratulate Barbara Tofani for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

SUPPORTING ARKANSAS
FIREFIGHTERS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of America's firefighters.

Not a day goes by that I don't read or hear a story of the dangers and sacrifices our firefighters face to protect us. We are so blessed to have such great men and women who are dedicated to ensuring our safety.

The work that they do in our communities is an important job that requires our commitment to help provide funds for resources and training that enables them to perform their jobs as best as they can. I have been proud to support Arkansas's firefighters in the past by helping to secure grant funding and that work will continue.

Last year when the barracks at Fort Chaffee caught fire, our firefighters braved high winds to contain the fire and protect our communities. That blaze required the help of numerous firefighters including men and women who volunteer their time to help keep us out of harm's way.

According to the National Volunteer Fire Council, the biggest challenges facing volunteer fire departments and emergency services are retention and recruitment. We can help ease those hurdles with new legislation that offers incentives to those who are at the forefront of fires. The Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Act and the Volunteer Firefighter/EMS Gas Price Relief Act show our appreciation for the work that is imperative to protecting our rural communities.

Firefighters put their lives on the line for their fellow citizens, and my appreciation for these Americans who help protect us is immeasurable. I urge the House Committee on Ways and Means to consider these bills, and for Congress to offer more support to all of the men and women who serve our communities with such valor.

RECOGNIZING NEW SOURCE
BROADBAND COMPANY ON THEIR
GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON
CUTTING

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize New Source

Broadband for their far-sighted provision of high speed Internet services to rural areas.

New Source Broadband Company is a pioneer in the high speed Internet industry as they are reaching customers that larger companies have deemed unprofitable. This company has earned my respect for remembering that rural communities should not be left behind in the Information Age. Farmers, ranchers, lake-area inhabitants, and other country dwellers now have immediate access to online communities and knowledge databases thanks to the innovation and concern of this company. New Source Broadband Company will be opening their third office and continues to expand their service capacity to rural areas.

Madam Speaker, I commend the management and employees of New Source Broadband Company for the positive professional contribution they have made to rural communities, notably constituents within the Twenty-Sixth District of Texas. I warmly congratulate New Source Broadband Company upon the opening of their third store and wish them continued business growth.

HONORING CELE PETERSON ON
HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to pay tribute today to Cele Peterson, a resident of Tucson, Arizona who on March 14, 2009, celebrates her 100 birthday.

Ms. Peterson is the founder and owner of a dress store that has been an integral part of the Tucson business community for generations. But to call Ms. Peterson a dressmaker or even a businesswoman fails to capture how important this woman is to countless Southern Arizonans who have been touched by her kindness and good works.

It is impossible to imagine what Tucson would be like without Ms. Peterson's presence over these many years. Through her hard work and generosity, she helped define and shape our city. Her caring spirit and actions are an inspiration to all of us.

Our world today is very different from the one Ms. Peterson entered 100 years ago, on March 14, 1909. Then, much of Europe was still ruled by kings and queens. A czar presided over Russia, a sultan based in Constantinople dominated the Middle East, and William Howard Taft occupied the White House. In 1909 the first Lincoln-head penny went into circulation, the Wright Brothers delivered the first military plane to the army, and two American explorers, Robert Peary and Matthew Hansen, declared they were the first to reach the North Pole.

The year Ms. Peterson was born saw the U.S. Navy open a new base at Pearl Harbor, a Ford Model T win the first transcontinental motorcar race, Sir Thomas Lipton begin packaging tea in New York, and the White Star Line start construction of the *Titanic*. It was the year Barry Goldwater, Errol Flynn and Douglas Fairbanks were born and the year the artist Frederic Remington and the Apache leader Geronimo died.

Ms. Peterson's life-long connection to Arizona began when the State of Arizona was

born, in 1912. As a three-year old girl she moved with her family to Bisbee, then a thriving mining town. The population of the entire state in 1912 was around 200,000. Tucson had 14,000 residents and Phoenix—now the fifth largest city in the United States—had a population of 11,000. The Mexican Revolution had begun two years earlier and Ms. Peterson recalls climbing the hills around Bisbee to watch the revolution take place on the other side of the border.

When Ms. Peterson launched her business in 1930, our country was at the threshold of the Great Depression and it was not long before her two business partners backed out of the venture. Ms. Peterson, however, did not give up. She stuck to it and not only survived, but thrived.

For nearly 80 years, Ms. Peterson's merchandise and designs have been at the forefront of the fashion world. Her business has endured decades of ever-changing trends and economic ups and downs.

Today, Cele Peterson's retail store is still going strong in Tucson. Her daughters are managing the business but Cele still comes to the store to greet customers and make sure that her tradition of great service is maintained. Over the years, Ms. Peterson has dressed an untold number of women from all walks of life. Among them are a host of well-known celebrities, such as Elizabeth Taylor and Lady Astor.

Ms. Peterson's accomplishments go far beyond the realm of hems, pleats and necklines. She is a greatly admired and dynamic civic leader who has had a hand in the establishment of some Tucson's finest community organizations. She helped found the Arizona Theatre Company, the Arizona Opera Company, the Tucson Children's Museum and, perhaps most significantly, Casa de los Niños. Casa de los Niños' mission is to support children and families to both prevent child abuse and treat children who are victims of abuse. When the unmet needs of abused children were brought to her attention, Ms. Peterson offered up a three-bedroom house so that the new organization could begin its work. When it opened in 1973, it was the first shelter of its kind in the country.

As Tucson celebrates the 100th birthday of Cele Peterson, it is worth noting that 2009 also marks the centennial of the birth of Wallace Stegner. This great writer of the American West once noted that "creation is a knack which is empowered by practice, and like almost any skill, it is lost if you don't practice it."

Cele Peterson never stopped practicing her knack for creation and in the process she helped build a caring community. For all that she has done we owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Thank you Cele for setting such a fine example of citizenship for all of us to follow.

Happy Birthday to you!

SENDING THE WRONG MESSAGE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues an editorial from