

this year were met by the most brutal repression imaginable, with security forces given “shoot to kill” orders that resulted in some 300 deaths (many killed by bullet wounds to the chest, back and head) and some 2,000 arrests (many remain under arrest without charge). Ordinary Sudanese are outraged at the economic shambles the regime has created, and are demanding that these hopelessly corrupt and cruelly self-enriching men be removed from power. And yet your administration seems to be bent on throwing a political and economic lifeline to the regime. Your former special envoy declared in December 2011, after Khartoum’s military seizure of the contested Abyei region (in violation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement) and subsequent military assaults on South Kordofan and Blue Nile:

“Frankly, we do not want to see the ouster of the [Sudanese] regime, nor regime change. We want to see the regime carrying out reform via constitutional democratic measures.” (Princeton Lyman’s response to a question by the respected Arabic news outlet Asharq Al-Awsat concerning Sudan and the “Arab Spring,” December 3, 2011)

It is the height of disingenuousness and expediency for your envoy to have suggested that the National Islamic Front/National Congress Party is in any way prepared to “carry out reform via constitutional democratic measure.” The regime’s response to the September/October demonstrations and political protests from all quarters provides evidence that could hardly be more compelling.

And yet at the very moment in which gross mismanagement of the Sudanese economy over the past 24 years, obscenely profligate military spending, gratuitous war-making on the marginalized peoples of the periphery, and massive sequestration of national wealth by the political elite has brought about economic conditions that make democratic change a real possibility, your administration seems intent on diminishing those economic pressures that the U.S.—to its virtually singular credit—has brought to bear since 1997, both through Congressional and Presidential action. Instead of tightening the very sanctions that increasingly threaten the survival of a regime that has exhausted its oil wealth in less than a decade and has no access to international credit or Forex reserves, we read that business between the U.S. and the regime is beginning to boom.

The Sudan Tribune reports (October 10, 2013) that Foreign Minister Ali Karti, after his meetings with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, “pointed out that several U.S. companies which applied for licenses to operate in Sudan were granted, which he said is an indicator that investments and commercial relations could overcome political difficulties.” And this would seem to be borne out by a series of reports from the Sudan Tribune and others:

White Nile Sugar Company announced on Sunday (November 3, 2013) that it has signed an agreement with the US-based General Electric (GE) by which it will receive parts and services for its billion-dollar sugar plant. (Sudan Tribune, November 4, 2013)

In a revealingly frank statement, Sudan’s foreign ministry undersecretary, Rahmatallah Mohamed Osman, declared in August 2013 that “U.S. economic sanctions on Sudan contain some loopholes which could be exploited to boost the economy.” Why haven’t those “loopholes,” if they exist, been resolutely closed?

Typically of dubious reliability, Khartoum’s state-controlled media recently made a specific claim that should be unambiguously confirmed or disconfirmed:

The managing director of [Sudan’s] Kenana Sugar Company (KSC) has disclosed KSC is currently dealing with 18 US companies licensed by Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in the area of production, irrigation, and harvesters despite the US economic sanctions imposed on Sudan for 16 years. . .

Lately, an American company has submitted a request to OFAC to import ethanol from Sudan. Moreover, [the] U.S. has excluded gum Arabic from sanctions for its bad need of this commodity in nutritional and drug industry. US imports \$40 million worth of Gum Arabic annually either directly or indirectly from Sudan. U.S. may want lift the sanctions gradually for face saving. (November 9, 2013)

Certainly the account is accurate in pointing out the exemption in U.S. sanctions made for gum arabic, an exemption secured over a decade ago through duplicitous legislative means by Robert Menendez, formerly Congressional representative from the district in New Jersey where virtually all U.S. gum arabic processing occurs. Menendez is now, of course, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The economic sanctions put in place by previous administrations and the Congress seem to have become irrelevant by means of “technical adjustments” to the restrictions supposedly enforced by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). The question, President Obama, is why your administration has allowed this to occur? Is Khartoum right in suggesting that “the U.S. may want [to] lift the sanctions gradually for face-saving”? Or is the stealth lifting of sanctions part of a larger quid pro quo with the Khartoum regime? Is it of a piece with the preposterous claim by special envoy Lyman that this regime might preside over the democratic transformation of Sudan?

But however enmeshed in the complexities of U.S. diplomatic and political machinations vis-a-vis Khartoum, the countless bombing attacks against civilians such as occurred yesterday near North Sharafa in East Jebel Marra provide a certain stark moral clarity. Again, one of the regime’s Antonovs. . .

. . . bombed three farmers, at about 5.30 pm on Friday [November 29, 2013]. The two men and a woman were riding a horse cart from their farm to their homes in Sharafa village. The three farmers and their horses were killed immediately. The names of the three farmers are Hashim Abakar Mohamed, Mustafa Eisa, and Hanan Saleh Juma.

Your own refusal to condemn—regularly, forcefully, and consequentially—such deliberate attacks on defenseless civilians brings shame on our nation and makes it ever more difficult to believe that our foreign policy is guided by anything other than a ruthless Realpolitik.

Sincerely,

ERIC REEVES,
Smith College,
Northampton, MA.

would have voted “yes.” On rollcall vote No. 613, I would have voted “yes.” On rollcall vote No. 614, I would have voted “yes.”

RECOGNIZING UPPER DARBY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Upper Darby High School, the winner of Varsity Brands’ National School Spirit Day. National School Spirit Day is an annual celebration throughout the month of October to recognize the impact that cheerleaders and dancers have in their local communities—as mentors, community service leaders, spirit raisers, and positive examples to all.

In 2009, Varsity Brands began National School Spirit Day as a way to spotlight the efforts of cheerleaders and dancers throughout the country who make a difference in their schools and communities. Over the past five years, cheerleaders and dancers have pledged more than 500,000 community service hours as part of National School Spirit Day.

This year, the Upper Darby High School Royals were selected as the national team winner of the 2013 National School Spirit Day. The Upper Darby Cheerleaders collected hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, gift cards, and other warm clothing items for women and children of domestic violence and abuse throughout the month of October. By the end of the month, the cheer squad was able to turn over thousands of items in support of victims of domestic abuse.

In conjunction with National School Spirit Day on October 11, 2013, Varsity Brands also launched Cheer for a Healthier America. This program aims to enlist high school student cheerleaders, dancers, and athletes as student ambassadors of their communities by getting local elementary school kids more involved in physical activities, and teach them about making healthy lifestyle choices. Just this summer, at over 1,000 Varsity camps across America, over 400,000 enrolled campers learned about the program and are preparing to initiate it this Fall, while students from over 800 schools have signed up to participate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing Upper Darby High School and commending the work done by youth across the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during rollcall vote Nos. 612, 613 and 614, on December 2, 2013, due to a flight delay. I would like the record to reflect how I would have voted: On rollcall vote No. 612, I

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 612, regarding the “Space Launch Liability Indemnification Extension Act” (H.R. 3547). Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

IN RECOGNITION OF PAM
FRISELLA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Pam Frisella, one of the finest and most selfless public servants I know. Pam is retiring today as the mayor of Foster City and has served on the city council for eight years. She was vice mayor in 2007 and mayor in 2008. For Foster City, Pam's departure is not simply a retirement. It's the equivalent of watching a ship raise its anchor. Pam has been that anchor of security throughout many exciting and challenging times in the city.

In 1998, Pam graduated from a leadership program sponsored by several Bay Area cities. The class helped her focus on how to best apply her talents and her dedication to community service. She saw that she could be highly effective by playing an active role in city government.

She joined the city council in 2006, two years before the global recession hit. Always a fiscally-prudent person, Pam worked hard with her colleagues to close the budget gap that was created by the recession. Foster City, although built relatively recently, also has a large infrastructure in constant need of maintenance, repair and replacement. This is expensive, but Pam is dedicated to maintaining the quality of life that residents expect. In part due to Pam's efforts, the city this year will likely cure its structural deficit and its infrastructure investments have been wise and timely.

The center of Foster City is in flux. Pam joined with her colleagues to identify the needs of the community and to envision mixed uses for this area. She supported an updating to the business license fee, the city's land use elements, and supported city efforts to conserve water and to improve the reliability of the city's water system.

Pam is a strong supporter of affordable housing and served on the board of the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust. Because community service is in her blood, she has volunteered for 20 years for Samaritan House which serves low income families and individuals in San Mateo County. Samaritan House named her volunteer of the year in 1995. In 1999, Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter awarded her the same honor. Pam is also giving prison ministry at San Quentin Prison. She is an ambassador for the Foster City Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Rotary Club. As you can tell from this description, Pam Frisella is a spark plug, igniting others into action and setting an exhausting pace of volunteer and civic engagement.

Pam has been a county and regional leader. Over the years she has served as Foster City's representative to the Association of Bay Area Governments, the City County Association of Governments, the Emergency Services Council, the joint powers board of the county-wide library system, and as liaison to the high school district.

Pam was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. After attending Western Michigan, she worked for General Motors and then moved to New York City for a career change. Pam moved to California in 1969 and in 1977 to Foster City, a city she came to love.

Pam and I share a painful life experience that initially connected us and cemented our friendship. We both lost a husband while pregnant. Pam's late husband was a baseball player and they moved around the country a lot. They were at spring training with the Milwaukee Brewers when he was killed in an accident on New Year's Day 1977 in Arizona. He was originally from San Mateo and Pam decided to move out here to find a home. She was 30 years old, pregnant and had a three-year-old son, Jason. Three days after she arrived in Foster City, her son Daniel was born. The community welcomed and embraced them and she found what she had hoped for—a home.

Pam coached Little League for eight years and was on the American Youth Soccer Organization Board of Directors for five years. She deserves much credit for the development and construction of Sea Cloud Park, the beautiful home of the Foster City Little League. In 2005, Pam was inducted to the Sports Wall of Fame at Sea Cloud Park. Pam was also the chair for the committee that reconstructed Serra High School's baseball field named after her late husband, Danny Frisella Memorial Field.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Pam Frisella on this day of her retirement. Her strength to overcome adversity, her generosity and her drive have benefitted every resident of Foster City. Her contributions will always be part of the fabric of her beloved home town.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed rollcall Nos. 612 through 614. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Nos. 612 and 613. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 614.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON EMPLOYMENT
AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT
OF 2013

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Commission on Employment and Economic Security Act of 2013.

This legislation makes necessary and vital investments in our nation's workforce and their families. It establishes a national commission to examine issues of economic and psychological insecurity within our workforce that have been caused by employment displacement. Furthermore, it will propose solutions, including recommendations for legislative and administrative action, to Congress and the President.

During the recession that began in December 2007 and in the subsequent months, more than 8.7 million jobs were lost. By October

2009, the unemployment rate had reached 10.0 percent, and roughly 15.4 million people were unemployed in our country. In Florida, the unemployment rate reached 11.4 percent in March 2010, and in some states, such as Rhode Island and South Carolina, the unemployment rate rose to just short of 12 percent, peaking at 11.9 percent in early 2010.

Luckily, we are on the road to recovery, and 7.5 million jobs have been created during 42 straight months of private-sector job growth across the country. Unemployment rates have fallen in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Our economy is recovering, but the need for this vital research is no less critical. This is highlighted by current projections from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which estimate that the unemployment rate will not fall below 6 percent until the end of 2016, and will remain above 5 percent through 2023.

Mr. Speaker, when Americans lose their jobs and their incomes shrink, too often, they face the loss of their family's health insurance and, subsequent to the loss of income, and even their housing. According to an American Psychological Association (APA) report from February 2013, money (69 percent), work (65 percent), and the economy (61 percent) remain the most frequently cited sources of stress for Americans.

The mental health of the American worker is integral as we continue down the road of economic recovery. Congress must face this problem head on and help those facing long-term unemployment, loss of health insurance, home foreclosure, increased levels of stress, and increased risk of mental illness.

I believe that we have a responsibility to provide the greatest possible assistance to our nation's workforce, whose commitment to economic participation has been a defining feature of the cultural fabric of our country. This Commission will be instrumental in ensuring that we get our nation fully back on track, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 612, I was unable to be present for the vote on H.R. 3547. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of November 18, 2013. If I were present, I would have voted on the following.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2013

Rollcall No. 588: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 2061, "yea."

Rollcall No. 589: On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 272, "yea."