

achieve that. H. Con. Res. 51 is a means to that end, and again, those who are committing these horrific crimes need to know that they face the certitude of punishment.

HONORING HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week, we observe Holocaust Remembrance Day—Yom HaShoah or the Day of Destruction—to remember those lost in the tragic genocide during World War II. I join with all Americans, as well as people around the world, to honor the tens of millions of lives that were lost. While this day is primarily an occasion to remember those who were lost, it also serves as a warning that we cannot let these atrocious acts of violence happen again.

On Yom HaShoah in Israel sirens ring out, and no matter what they are doing, people stop and reflect for two minutes. We too pause and remember those who perished as well as recommit ourselves to never again turn a blind eye to the precursors that led to this mass genocide. The Nuremberg Laws passed in 1935 capitalized on anti-Semitism's already widespread growth. These restrictions were followed by the destruction of Jewish communities, the construction of death camps, families torn apart, and lives lost.

As we reflect on the 6 million Jews lost 70 years ago, we must also remember the victims from other senseless genocides throughout history. From working towards the recognition of the Armenian genocide to today's atrocities in Sudan and the Central African Republic, we must be committed to saying "never again." The violation of basic human rights cannot be ignored and we must come together to stand up for those who do not have the voice to stand up for themselves.

I ask all Members to join me in remembering those lost in the genocide and pledge that this senseless violence will never be forgotten or repeated.

NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM
WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representative GUS BILIRAKIS, my co-chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, and our caucus members Representatives MADELEINE BORDALLO, G.K. BUTTERFIELD, TONY CÁRDENAS, DONNA CHRISTENSEN, BLAKE FARENTHOLD, LOIS FRANKEL, TULSI GABBARD, ALAN GRAYSON, JANICE HAHN, COLLEEN HANABUSA, JOE HECK, RUBÉN HINOJOSA, MICHAEL HONDA, JARED HUFFMAN, WILLIAM KEATING, ANN KIRKPATRICK, BILLY LONG, CYNTHIA LUMMIS, KRISTI NOEM, STEVE PEARCE, PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, SCOTT PETERS, BILL POSEY, DAVE REICHERT, BOBBY RUSH, GREGORIO SABLAN, LORETTA SANCHEZ, STEVE STIVERS, PAT TIBERI, DINA TITUS, JUAN

VARGAS, and FEDERICA WILSON, we offer our support in celebrating this year's National Travel and Tourism Week.

The week of May 3 through 11, 2014 is designated as National Travel and Tourism Week in the United States. This commemorative week reminds us that travel is a major driver of U.S. economic growth and prosperity as well as an important business tool that promotes efficiency and productivity.

America's travel industry accounted for \$2.1 billion in economic output in 2013, supported nearly 15 million U.S. jobs and generated nearly \$134 billion in local, state and federal tax revenue. Travel and tourism account for 2.7 percent of U.S. GDP and travel is America's No. 1 U.S. industry export.

Travel is a pillar of economic growth. One out of every nine jobs in America depends on travel and tourism. Travel is among the top 10 industries in 49 states, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia in terms of employment. Travel is currently creating jobs at a 17 percent faster rate than other economic sectors. 84 percent of companies in the travel industry are classified as small businesses.

When U.S. travelers spend money in other countries, their purchases are counted as imports. When international travelers visit the United States, the goods and services they purchase here are counted as exports. U.S. travel exports totaled \$181 billion in 2013, generating a positive balance of trade of more than \$57 billion.

Travel, in the context of business meetings, events and incentive travel, constitutes a core business function that helps companies strengthen business performance, educate employees and customers and reward business accomplishments. Business travel yields a return on investment of \$9.50 in increased revenue for every dollar spent.

The majority of all trips taken to and within the United States involve leisure travel, which benefits every state and territory in the country, and was valued at \$621.4 billion in 2013, and generated \$91.9 billion in tax revenue. Leisure travel can be educational, increase historical and cultural awareness of our country and the world, stimulate creativity and productivity, and enhance longevity by allowing us to recharge our batteries and improve our health and wellness.

We strongly support National Travel and Tourism Week as an opportunity to express to the Nation the importance of travel in creating economic growth and opportunity, and enhancing the quality of life in the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO ANTOINETTE
BEAUMONT TOMASEK

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Antoinette "Toni" Beaumont Tomasek, an extraordinary and talented Foreign Service officer who passed away on June 29, 2013, at age 41 due to complications from a car accident in Haiti.

Born in Manhattan Beach, California, Toni served in the Peace Corps in Paraguay before embarking on a career that took her all over the world working on international public

health. Prior to her work in Haiti, Toni served as a USAID Development Leadership Initiative Officer in Indonesia, establishing what USAID has called a "groundbreaking program" that works with local organizations to prevent and treat tuberculosis.

At the time of her death, Toni served as a health services team leader at the USAID mission in Port-au-Prince and was making a difference every day in lives of the Haitian people. She died following serious injuries suffered in a car accident as she returned to the American Embassy from a visit to a health clinic.

Toni was a loving wife, mother, daughter, and sister. She is survived by her husband, Adam, and their two young children, Alexandre and Amelie; her parents, Marilyn and William; and her brother and sister, Billy and Jeannie.

On Friday, May 2, Toni is being honored at the annual American Foreign Service Association's Memorial Ceremony at the U.S. State Department for her exceptional service to our nation. I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Toni Tomasek and extending our deepest condolences to her family for their terrible loss. Our nation and the entire world owe a great debt to Toni for her tremendous commitment to making the world a better place and for her indefatigable work to improve the lives of the least among us.

THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC:
FROM "PRE-GENOCIDE" TO
GENOCIDE?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing that I held earlier this week addressed an extremely critical topic: the worsening crisis in the Central African Republic, where untold lives hang in the balance and the window for action is narrowing each day.

It was not the first hearing we have held on the CAR. It follows up a hearing that we held last November when the situation already appeared dire, as well as numerous meetings and interventions with bishops, humanitarian NGOs, diplomats, and interested parties. At our November hearing, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert Jackson stated that the CAR was in a "pre-genocide" stage.

Since the time Mr. Jackson last spoke to us, the situation appears to have gotten demonstrably worse. We will hear again today from Mr. Jackson, who will update us not only on the situation on the ground, but also on a change of policy that I believe reflects a course of action that we had recommended the administration undertake last November, namely, that United Nations peacekeepers be introduced into the country as the existing African Union force has been serving too many vested interests.

Hopefully, such an intervention will not come too late, because as we are witnessing a country in rapid disintegration, apparently descending from a "pre-genocide" stage to one characterized by a word almost too painful to articulate: genocide.

In a country that for decades had been characterized by brutal misrule and brazen

corruption, we are seeing for the first time sectarian divisions such have never existed before. Economic tensions and rivalry over land used for grazing versus planting have always existed, but these have given way to butchery based on religious and ethnic affiliation.

This is happening at a time when we mark the twentieth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda. When that country was being turned into a massive killing field, the world stood idly by. Both President Clinton and then-U.N. Peacekeeping Chief Kofi Annan had actionable intelligence information that could have prevented or at least mitigated the Rwandan genocide but chose callous indifference that enabled slaughter of unprecedented proportions. When the blood stopped flowing, the world looked at the corpses piled high and was shocked, “never again” was the phrase that was on everyone’s lips.

It is happening again. The question before us is whether the phrase “never again” is one that we simply use to pay lip service while doing nothing, or whether we are going to act.

We had two witnesses from the U.S. Government at the hearing, as I mentioned, Acting Assistant Secretary Jackson, and also Anne Richard, Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees and Migration. While the State Department sending two people to testify is encouraging, as it shows a heightened commitment to the issue, the questions I asked them to answer were not only about “what are we doing,” but also whether or not “we are doing enough?”

In 2012, the Obama administration, to much fanfare, created an Atrocities Prevention Board, following a Presidential Study directive which stated that “Preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States.” The APB is supposed to provide early warning of mass atrocities, and mobilize interagency resources to stop such atrocities.

But where has this Board been? Did we take our eyes off the ball in the CAR, perhaps because we are confronted by so many other crises?

While we have taken some steps, including authorizing \$170 million in humanitarian and peacekeeping aid—are such resources adequate given the magnitude of the problem?

We have a situation where in a country with a population of roughly 5.2 million people, 1.3 million are in risk of starvation, while 2.5 million in total are estimated to need some form of humanitarian assistance. That is nearly half the country.

We are seeing ethnic cleansing, whereby whole villages are being emptied and the countryside laid waste. There are more than 600,000 internally displaced persons in the CAR, plus more than 320,000 others who are refugees in neighboring countries. Illustrative of how the situation has worsened, the total number of those displaced has doubled since the time we held our hearing last November.

We are told that an estimated 2,000 people have been killed since December, but I believe that number is a conservative estimate.

What reports we do receive, however, are bloodcurdling. Human Rights Watch reported on an attack on a Muslim neighborhood in the town of Guen in the early morning hours of February 1 by so-called anti-Balaka forces. A father recounted how as the family was fleeing he saw his ten-year-old boy shot in the leg

and fall down. The child was set upon by men with machetes, who hacked at him until he was dead. Four days later, in what was reminiscent of the massacre in the former Yugoslavia, anti-Balaka forces came upon a group of Muslims who were hiding. They separated the men from the women and small children, and executed the men: 45 of them, using machetes and then shooting those who lay wounded.

Though for decades the CAR has been beset by violence and misrule, such religious based violence is something that is a new phenomenon.

But how did the country get to this point?

What began as a political coup d’etat in March 2013 against former President François Bozizé by Michel Djotodia quickly took on religious and ethnic overtones.

As was detailed in our November hearing, Djotodia—who, thankfully, has now been replaced by interim President Catherine Samba-Panza—came to power with the military backing of Seleka, a militia of about 25,000 men, up to 90 percent of which come from Chad and Sudan and therefore constituted a foreign invasion force in the eyes of many. They did not speak the local language, and are Muslim in a nation that is over 80 percent Christian or otherwise non-Muslim. They destroyed churches, executed priests and stirred up sectarian hatreds where little to none had existed previously.

What we began to see happening last November in response to Seleka was a reactionary backlash by anti-Balaka, self-defense gangs. Since then, retaliatory outrages committed by anti-Balaka forces have escalated, and Muslim civilians who had nothing to do with Seleka became targets. As in the case of Guen, whole neighborhoods in the capital city of Bangui, and whole villages, have been cleansed of their Muslim populations.

As we heard from our witnesses, there are numerous causes contributing to grievances, including a fight for control over conflict minerals. Guen, for example, is in a mining area, and thus there are economic motives at work as well.

Insofar as the conflict can be described as religious on one level, it is also true religious fervor and dedication that provides the greatest hope for peace in the Central African Republic.

Some of you will recall how a few months ago three great religious leaders came to Washington and New York to meet with Congressional and U.S. Government leaders, as well as United Nations officials. One was a Muslim imam, another an evangelical Christian leader, and a third the Catholic Archbishop of Bangui—Imam Omar Kobine Layama, Archbishop Dieudonné Nzapalainga, and the Rev. Nicolas Guérékoyame-Gbangou. The three of them spoke with one voice about their efforts to preach reconciliation in their country and to end the violence. They also asked for our help before it became too late.

Finally, I want to relate to you a story about another man of God, someone whom those of you who attended our November hearing, will remember. Two weeks ago was Holy Week, and on Holy Thursday, Bishop Désiré Nongo of the Diocese of Bossangoa and one of the witnesses at our last hearing, was visiting an outlying parish along with three of his priests.

The car he was traveling in was stopped on the road by Seleka gunmen whose leader had

for a period occupied Bossangoa. He accused Bishop Nongo of having thwarted his plans and working with international peacekeepers. He then sentenced him and the other three priests to death. The gunmen removed his Episcopal ring and the large pectoral cross which you might remember Bishop Nongo wore. The four men were placed in a truck and were to be driven north to the border with Chad for the order to be carried out.

On the way to the gallows, their truck was stopped yet again by Seleka gunmen, this time commanded by another warlord who also knew Bishop Nongo and his good work in Bossangoa, where the Bishop provides care for over 35,000 people displaced by the violence. He ordered the Bishop and his priests freed and, through the efforts of international aid organizations and the peacekeepers, they were helicoptered back to Bossangoa in time for Good Friday.

This story really hit home with me. Here is someone who shared coffee with me in my office, who sat in that witness chair over there and gave a powerful defense of the weakest and most vulnerable, someone I especially know and deeply admire and respect, who just two weeks ago today was about to be killed until Providence intervened.

But be it a bishop or a farmer, every precious life has value. Far too many have died, and, unless we act, far too many more will likely die.

Recall the words of the Presidential Directive I cited earlier: “Preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States.” I believe this is true, but such sentiments are empty if they are not backed up by action.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF EU-
LESS MAYOR PRO TEM LEON
HOGG

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Honorable Leon Hogg who is retiring from his position on the Euleus City Council after 18 years of service.

Mayor Pro Tem Leon Hogg has served on the City Council since 1996. His dedication to the City of Euleus, Texas, has ensured happier and healthier lives for its citizens, and his commitment to enhancing the infrastructure of the city has been vital to the area’s prosperity and growth.

Mayor Pro Tem Hogg has a long-standing history of serving in leadership roles. He currently presides on the Animal Shelter Advisory Board and the Crime Control and Prevention District Board. Prior to his existing leadership positions, he served as the Council representative to the HEB Economic Development Foundation and as a member of the Half-Cent Sales Tax Education Committee. For 12 years, he served on the Parks and Leisure Services Board; furthermore, for eight of those years he presided as the chairman.

Mayor Pro Tem Hogg is involved in various community and civic groups. He graduated from the inaugural class of the Euleus Citizens Fire Academy, and he is a graduate of the