

Largely due to the terrorist violence in the North, an estimated 3.3 million Nigerians are displaced—making Nigeria the world's third largest displaced population, behind only Syria and Columbia. Many of those displaced people are farmers, which will certainly disrupt the next harvesting season and further impoverish Nigeria's suffering people.

Yet the blame for the perennial lack of development in northern Nigeria should not be heaped on the federal government alone. We have been told that northern states have money for development, and one national legislator from the north acknowledged that each member of Nigeria's Parliament has at least \$1 million dollars (not Nigerian naira) at his or her disposal to use for constituent services. National and state governments in Nigeria have to be pushed to do more on development with money they already have. It is imperative that we provide the training and support for Nigerians to develop their own capacity to help Nigeria to end the Boko Haram threat. The Leahy Law, which forbids U.S. support for military and security forces involved in human rights violations, is seen as an obstacle to achieving that goal. We need to examine this matter further if our assistance is to be effective.

We also need to ensure that our investigative capacity under the Foreign Terrorist Organization designation is sufficient to identify those providing material and other assistance to Boko Haram. Without this element, our sanctions on Boko Haram and its leaders will not be effective.

The Boko Haram crisis is complex, but it can be understood and tackled effectively if we know the relevant facts. We had witnesses at the hearing I held who shed significant light on this situation so that we are better able to proceed in helping to end this threat to Nigeria, its neighbors, and the international community.

TRIBUTE TO RUBY DEE LEGENDARY STAR OF STAGE AND SCREEN, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, AND TRAILBLAZER WHO OPENED DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERATIONS OF PERFORMING ARTISTS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 13, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and remember the great Ruby

Dee, one of the most talented and influential actresses in American history and a committed activist for social and economic justice for more than 60 years.

Ruby Dee passed away peacefully in her New Rochelle, New York home on June 11, 2014. She was 91 years old.

Born Ruby Ann Wallace in 1922 in Cleveland, Ohio, Ruby Dee moved to New York's Harlem as a small child where she was raised by her father, Marshall Wallace, and his wife, Amelia, a schoolteacher and stickler for elocution and the person who introduced Ruby Dee to poetry, music and dance.

It was in her Harlem school where Ruby Dee first read a passage from a play for her class mates and was met with applause, sparking her passion for acting.

After graduating from Hunter College in 1945, she embarked upon a truly remarkable stage and screen career, one that lasted nearly 70 years. She was a member of the American Negro Theatre where she acted alongside other legends such as Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, and Hilda Simms.

In 1946, Ruby Dee appeared in her first movie, a musical called "That Man of Mine." She went on to star in several acclaimed films including "The Jackie Robinson Story," "The Incident," "Purlie Victorious," "Do the Right Thing," and "American Gangster," for which she was nominated for the Best Supporting Actress Academy Award, the second oldest person ever to be nominated.

Ruby Dee is perhaps best known for extraordinary portrayals of Ruth Younger in the stage and screen productions of Lorraine Hansberry's timeless classic, "A Raisin in the Sun," for which she received the National Board of Review Award for Best Supporting Actress.

Playing the wife of the main character, Walter Lee Younger (played by Sidney Poitier), Ruby Dee's Ruth Younger was, as the New York Times put it: "a character with far too much on her plate: an overcrowded home, a troubled husband, a young son, an overbearing mother-in-law, a wearying job and an unwanted pregnancy, not to mention the shared burden of black people everywhere in a society skewed against them."

Over her illustrious 70 year career, Ruby Dee was the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Emmy, the Grammy, the Obie, the Screen Actors Guild, and the Drama Desk Awards.

In 1995 President Clinton awarded her the National Medal of Arts and in 2008 she received the Spingarn Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the NAACP. That same year she also received the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill

Medal in recognition for her active engagement and "personal presence at pivotal moments in the tumultuous history of American civil rights."

In 1946, Ruby Dee joined the cast of the Broadway-bound play, "Jeb," where she met Ossie Davis, the play's lead character, and the man who would become her husband and soul mate in 1948.

Over the next 59 years Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis performed together on stage and screen numerous times and were united in their protests against injustice, whether it was speaking out in the 1950s against the executions of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg; McCarthyism; or the revocation of Paul Robeson's passport.

They protested the Vietnam War and marched for civil rights, voting rights, women's rights, environmental justice, and against South African apartheid. In 1963, at the March on Washington, the couple served as the masters of ceremonies at Washington Monument entertainment event preceding the march to the Lincoln Memorial.

Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis counted among their close friends both the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X; Presidents Carter, Clinton, Obama; and Nelson Mandela.

Throughout her life, the husky-voiced Ruby Dee was a profile in courage. She bravely stood up for her beliefs and spoke truth to power when many did not out of fear that association with controversial causes would have an adverse effect on their careers.

But because of her courage and steadfastness, the doors of opportunity would later be opened to future generations of performing artists of all races, creeds, and backgrounds.

It truly can be said that Ruby Dee was an inspiration for African-American performers and women around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Ruby Dee lived a long, fulfilling, storied and consequential life. She made her mark in the world. More important, she made a difference in the lives of untold numbers of girls aspiring to realize their dreams.

I hope that Ruby Dee's family and loved ones are comforted by the fact that so many people all around the world are mourning with them at this difficult time.

So today one of our nation's greatest actress has taken her final bow and the curtain has come down on the extraordinary passion play that is and was the life of the legendary, talented, and supremely beautiful Ruby Dee.

Her next play will be in Heaven, accompanied by a chorus of angels.