

a homemaker and took care of her family. Mary had a knack for sewing, making all of her and her daughter's clothing as well as ties for George.

Besides her family, Mary's devotion was to the Fresno Veterans Hospital. She volunteered at the hospital for 60 years and gave over 30,000 hours of service. She was a 63-year life time member of the American Legion Auxiliary and served as their State Hospital Representative to the Veterans Hospital for 40 years. She served as president in the Auxiliary at the Unit and District level.

Mary will be greatly missed by her daughter, Gloria Jean Sinopoli; son, Sam Sinopoli; grandchildren, Anthony, Michael, Julia and Lauren; her sister, Palmira Smith and her husband Don; brother, Americo Frediani Jr. and his wife, Patricia; sister-in-law, Louise Petrucelli, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the life of Mary Sinopoli, a standup American citizen. Her presence will undoubtedly be missed, but the impact she made on our community will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER FERNANDO  
SANCHEZ

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2014*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Fernando Sanchez for his 40 years of dedicated service to law enforcement and for his commitment to Webb County and the state of Texas.

Officer Sanchez is a remarkable and highly respected citizen who has dedicated his career to the safety of his community. First serving in 1974, Officer Sanchez worked as a detention officer for Webb County. He then attended Laredo Jr. College, where he worked diligently toward his Basic Texas Peace Officer's Certification which he received in the fall of 1975.

It was then that Officer Sanchez was transferred to the Civil Division, where he began his service as a Bailiff of the first County Court at Law under Judge Antonio Zardenetta. When Judge Zardenetta was elected to the 111th Judicial District Court, Officer Sanchez was appointed as the bailiff of the court from 1979 to 1982. In 1982, he relocated to Victoria, Texas, where he served as a Sergeant in the Sheriff's Department before returning to Laredo to continue his service to the 111th Judicial District Court as a Bailiff.

After serving as the Bailiff for the 111th Court for a combined fourteen years, Officer Sanchez worked as an investigator for the Webb County Attorney's Office from 1997 to 2004. In 2005 he was appointed as Chief Deputy for the Webb County Sheriff's Department, and within the same year was promoted to Senior Lieutenant until 2008. In August of 2009, Officer Sanchez was hired as a criminal investigator for the Webb County Public Defender's Office. He was then appointed the Bailiff and Interpreter for the 406th Judicial District Court under Judge Oscar J. Hale, Jr. from August of 2010 until his retirement in August of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and pleased to have had this time to recognize Officer Fernando Sanchez not only on his career, but on his loyal service to his community. His willingness to work in various roles where he is most needed is admirable, and has helped to create a better Laredo and Webb County. I thank you for your time.

RUSSIA'S CONTINUING DISREGARD  
FOR THE RULE OF LAW

**HON. MATT SALMON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2014*

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention a September 8, 2014 article by David Clark, printed in the Huffington Post UK, entitled, "The Unacceptable Face of Putinism". In this troubling article, Mr. Clark comments on Russia's continued efforts to ignore, and in fact undermine, the rule of law. At the heart of this most recent demonstration is Putin crony, Igor Sechin, a former KGB operative-turned-Rosneft CEO, who, reportedly, upon losing an arbitration case at The Hague under the Energy Charter Treaty and being required to pay \$50 billion in compensation to the majority shareholder of YUKOS Oil, threatened the plaintiff, Mr. Leonid Nevzlin.

The lawsuit stems from the Kremlin's act of taking over YUKOS Oil and imprisoning the company's top executives. As we watch Russia violate Ukraine's sovereignty through its annexation of Crimea and flout the international community's warnings about their actions in Eastern Ukraine, it is important to note that President Putin's government continues to violate the rule of law and must be held accountable. Russia must be required to live up to their international obligations, which includes compliance with rulings by The Hague as prescribed in the Energy Charter Treaty. The international community must ensure that Russia is held accountable for their actions and meets their responsibilities under the law. I hope my colleagues will take the time to read this article.

[From the Huffington Post, UK, Sept. 8, 2014]

THE UNACCEPTABLE FACE OF PUTINISM

(By David Clark)

There isn't a better weathervane of Kremlin opinion than Igor Sechin. The 53 year old former KGB operative has been Vladimir Putin's most loyal and influential lieutenant since they worked together for the Mayor of St. Petersburg in the 1990s. Officially he has served as Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration, Deputy Prime Minister and now Chairman of Rosneft, the state oil company. Unofficially he has long been leader of the Kremlin's hardline siloviki faction; the group of senior intelligence and security officers who provide the muscle that makes Putin's leadership possible. So when Sechin publicly threatens the life of an exiled Russian businessman, as he did recently, it's worth paying attention. Russia's behaviour could be about to take another turn for the worse.

Sechin's outburst came at the end of a bad period for Russia. Already facing escalating international sanctions and a setback to its covert military intervention in Eastern Ukraine, an international tribunal in The Hague at the end of July found the Russian

government guilty of illegally expropriating Yukos Oil a decade ago and ordered it to compensate the company's former majority shareholders to the tune of \$50bn. This was a particularly bitter blow to Sechin who has been accused of personally orchestrated the destruction of Yukos and who's company, Rosneft, subsequently acquired its main production assets. Indeed, Rosneft stands to lose directly if its assets outside Russia are seized to facilitate payment of the award. Incensed by the loss of face and the possible loss of business, Sechin raged about the unfairness of the ruling before turing his remarks directly to Leonid Nevzlin, the largest former shareholder. Nevzlin, he warned, "should take care of himself."

It's hard to interpret this as anything other than a direct physical threat. Given Sechin's status and connections, it certainly deserves to be treated as more than a throw-away remark. Putin's Russia has a long history of using targeted assassination as a tool of policy, both inside Russia and abroad. Outside Russia the targets have usually been armed Chechen separatists. Investigating authorities in both Qatar and Turkey have accused the Russian intelligence agencies of murdering Chechen exiles on their territory.

Russia is hardly alone in carrying out the targeted assassination of those it deems to be terrorists. But it is also now one of the few countries that appears ready to use the same method against non-violent opponents. Rather than a shocking exception, the 2006 murder in London of former Russian intelligence officer Alexander Litvinenko may prove to be an ominous foretaste of what the Kremlin is capable of. Now the subject of a public inquiry, British officials long ago concluded that there was Russian state involvement in the crime.

Yet even in the Litvinenko case the motive was related to national security, or at least the Kremlin's interpretation of it. If Leonid Nevzlin has now been added to a hit list it marks a further escalation of Moscow's willingness to resort to violence beyond its border. After all, the offence that seems to have made him a target was to do nothing more than exercise his legal rights in a court of law.

In the context of the ongoing violence in Eastern Ukraine, it might be tempting for Western governments to treat Sechin's indiscretion as a matter of comparatively little importance. That would be a mistake. If Russia is allowed, in effect, to announce its willingness to resort to state terrorism, there is no way of knowing what consequences may follow. The Kremlin is strongly suspected of involvement in the dioxin poisoning that almost killed Victor Yushchenko shortly before he became President of Ukraine in 2004. Without a clear signal of international condemnation it might consider doing something similar today to President Poroshenko or Prime Minister Yatsenyuk. The message therefore needs to be sent that murder for political ends would put Russia outside the community of civilised nations.

The first step should be for the European Union to follow U.S. policy in putting Igor Sechin on the sanctions list of individuals subject to travel bans and asset freezes. The U.S. included Sechin on its list because of the immense influence he has exerted during Russia's lurch towards authoritarian nationalism. Perversely, the EU chose to exclude him from its own list for precisely the same reason. He is considered too important to be signalled out for punishment because of his involvement in the strategically vital energy sector where Europe's dependence on Russian imports has all but paralysed its capacity to act. That will need to change if the EU wants to challenge the impunity of the Russian elite.