

percent of the country's population lives in poverty and that land, wealth, and political power are concentrated in the hands of a few.

The conflict over land in Paraguay, which dates back hundreds of years, has grown even worse due to the expansion of mechanized soy production, primarily for export. Government policies, including tax breaks, access to credit, and weak environmental and labor regulations, have favored large corporate farms which are often foreign owned, over local family farms that receive little if any government support.

As we have seen in many other Latin countries, the Paraguayan Government has used the army, police, and judicial inaction or bias to protect the interests of the large landowners.

The 35 year dictatorship of Alfredo Stroessner ended in 1989. He ruled under a state of siege, imprisoned and tortured political opponents, and reportedly gave away or sold for a pittance 20 percent of the country's land to friends of his regime. Paraguay is slowly moving beyond the Stroessner years, but since 1989 more than 130 small farmers who have tried to defend their rights under the agrarian reform law have reportedly been killed.

I mention this bit of history to put into context what happened on June 15, 2012. According to information I have received, on that day several hundred police officers forcibly evicted a group of about 60 landless farmers who were occupying an area known as Marina Kue in eastern Paraguay. In the ensuing violence, eleven farmers and six police officers were killed and others injured from the gunfire. There has apparently been no investigation of the conduct of the police, despite the existence of published reports about human rights abuses, but all the farmers were charged with crimes.

This case offers the Paraguayan Government an important opportunity to conduct a thorough, independent investigation of the events of June 15, prosecute and punish those responsible for the killings and injuries of the farmers and police officers, and enable poor farmers in that community to acquire legal rights to land and put it to productive use to feed their families.

I understand that the Paraguayan Government recently began working to reach an agreement with the affected communities regarding the land dispute prior to the beginning of the trial of the farmers later this month. This is encouraging news, and it could be a turning point if it results in a thorough, independent investigation and prosecution of those responsible and a just resolution of the dispute.

Paraguay and the United States, while separated by more than 4,000 miles, share many interests. As chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of State and Foreign Operations that funds U.S. foreign assistance programs, I have supported programs to help Paraguay

strengthen its democratic institutions, promote efficiency and transparency, and promote equitable economic development. I also supported the funding for the Millennium Challenge Corporation's Threshold Program in Paraguay.

There will be other ways the United States can help Paraguay build the capacity and accountability of its public sector, expand its economy, and sustainably manage its natural resources. Few things would do more to advance these goals, and improve social stability, than addressing what happened at Marina Kue and providing access to land for Paraguay's small farmers. I am aware that several other Members of Congress are sending a letter to President Horacio Cartes urging these steps, and I look forward to his response.

CHIXOY DAM REPARATIONS AGREEMENT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, more than 30 years ago, in the midst of Guatemala's civil war, the construction of a large hydroelectric dam on the Chixoy River resulted in destruction of 33 indigenous Mayan communities and the massacres of more than 400 villagers and other abuses by the Guatemalan army.

The history of that tragedy is well known so I will not recount it here. Suffice it to say that a great injustice was committed. There was ample blame to go around between the Army, the World Bank, and Inter-American Development Bank that financed the dam, governments, including the United States, whose representatives on the banks' boards of directors voted for the construction, and subsequent Guatemalan Governments that failed to compensate the victims or punish those responsible.

Last month, the Guatemalan Government and representatives of the communities culminated many months of negotiations with an agreement to implement the contents of the 2010 reparations plan, including individual payments and community development investments that will be financed over a period of years. The agreement was formalized at a public ceremony on Saturday, November 1, attended by Guatemala's President Otto Perez Molina, members of the communities, other government officials, and representatives of the multilateral banks and the United Nations.

There are many who thought this day would never come, and I commend the commitment and patience of the members of the communities, particularly those who lost loved ones so many years ago, the Guatemalan officials who negotiated the agreement, President Perez Molina for his personal support, as well as key officials from the multilateral banks who played an indispensable role, and Inter-American Development Bank President Luis Moreno, who also took a personal interest. I also commend the U.S. Em-

bassy officials and representatives of the Catholic Church who provided encouragement and support during this process. Finally, I want to acknowledge Guatemala's Ambassador to the United States and the U.S. Treasury Department officials who recognized the need to resolve this issue.

This is a historic milestone that finally begins to right a grievous wrong, a wrong that was emblematic of the horrors of the armed conflict that engulfed Guatemala a generation ago. A great many innocent people lost their lives or their livelihoods in that war, and many of the key provisions of the 1992 Peace Accords remain unfulfilled.

Until now, Chixoy was among the unfinished business, so this is a welcome and important step toward addressing the damages suffered by these communities. Yet I am as mindful as others that in many respects this agreement is only the beginning. The task ahead is to ensure its implementation, which will be the responsibility of the current and future Guatemalan Governments, the multilateral banks that have pledged to redirect some of their own resources to this effort, and all those who care about Guatemala's past, present, and future.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a description of Saturday's ceremony formalizing the agreement, provided by the Guatemalan Embassy in Washington, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PRESIDENT PEREZ MOLINA FORMALIZES HISTORIC AGREEMENT

The President of Guatemala, Otto Perez Molina, formalized an historic agreement for economical reparations for 33 communities of Baja Verapaz affected by the construction of the Chixoy Hydroelectric in 1978.

A public event was held in the Municipal Stadium in Rabinal, Baja Verapaz on Saturday, where representatives of the Executive, the affected communities, the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, the Organization of American States and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights handed the Government Decree number 378-2014 to the Communities.

"Today is an historic day" expressed President Perez Molina, "one that closes a shameful chapter of abuses, human rights violations and injustices suffered by thousands of families that lived in the area where Chixoy was built". Also, in front of thousands of people from the affected communities that attended the formalization of the Government Decree at the Rabinal Municipal Stadium, he ratified his administration's commitment to comply with the terms of the Public Policy.

He continued to express, on behalf of the State of Guatemala, a public apology to the families of the 33 communities that were wronged by the construction in 1978 of the Chixoy Hydroelectric Dam. With this public apology, he began implementing the Government Decree for moral and material reparations. "I want to be the first to follow through with the public policy of reparations and comply with one of the main points of the agreement which is responsibility of the Presidency of Guatemala. So today, in this historic day of happiness and celebration of

the Agreement reached by the Government and the Communities, I want to take the first step and publicly apologize as President of the Republic, as representative of the unity of our citizens, for the abuse and human rights violations that each one of the communities suffered”.

He continued to say: “On behalf of the State of Guatemala I ask you to accept these apologies so that we can heal the wounds in our hearts without forgetting the injustices and human rights violations that occurred”.

President Perez Molina also said that he felt honored that his administration managed to reach an historic agreement that will contribute to overcome the drama that the Communities suffered for more than three decades. He continued to say that with the public event to recognize and repair the affected populations, one of his main objectives when taking office in January of 2012 was fulfilled. He went back and quoted his inauguration speech: “I ask God to grant us the wisdom to actively promote true reconciliation. A reconciliation that gives us the strength to work on our pending issues, on unattended injustices, on reconstructing our social fabric and to keep investing on the most valuable thing our Guatemala has, its citizens.”

PUBLIC POLICY FOR REPARATION OF DAMAGES

Several Government officials attended the public event, which had Vice President Roxana Baldetti as honor witness. Present also were representatives of the communities, local authorities and representatives of international organizations.

President Perez Molina highlighted that the agreement required a public policy for reparations and a structured plan to combat poverty, social injustice, inequality and the abandonment that these communities have suffered.

The Government Decree that gives life to this agreement was published on Friday in the Official Gazette and establishes the Public Policy for the Reparation of the Communities Affected by the Construction of the Chixoy Hydroelectric Dam.

The Policy will be applied to benefit 11,383 families and will offer basic infrastructure for 33 communities in Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz and Quiché, where the affected populations lived when the violations occurred.

President Perez Molina highlighted that the implementation during 2015 and 2016 has a budget of 200 million dollars for individual reparations. Besides individual pay, the Government will direct 1 billion quetzals in the next 15 years to build basic infrastructure in the 33 affected communities.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY E. FORCHT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the leading businessmen and entrepreneurs from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Terry E. Forcht is the founder, chairman, and CEO of the Forcht Group of Kentucky and was honored to be named the “Knox County Chamber 2014 Man of the Year” in recognition of his success in business and his contributions to the community.

Terry was born and bred in my hometown of Louisville, KY. Like me, Terry attended the University of Louisville for his undergraduate studies. He also obtained his law degree from the UofL Brandeis School of Law and subsequently left the Commonwealth to obtain his MBA from the University of Miami in Florida.

Terry would not leave Kentucky for long, however. He returned in 1964 to serve as a chairman of the Commerce Department at Cumberland College—now the University of the Cumberland—and 3 years later he started his own law practice in Corbin, KY.

In 1972, Terry bought the Hillcrest Nursing Home in Corbin—an acquisition that is widely considered to be the first piece of what would eventually become the Forcht Group of Kentucky. This initial purchase has grown into what is now called First Corbin Long Term Care and consists of nine health and rehabilitation centers in the region.

In 1972, Terry also became heavily involved in community banking. He was appointed to the board of directors of Corbin Deposit Bank and Trust Company, and as his interest and expertise in the industry grew, he founded Tri-County National Bank with a group of investors in 1985. As with his nursing home acquisition, this community bank quickly prospered and grew. Today there are 30 Forcht Bank locations in Kentucky with total assets of over \$1 billion.

Mr. Forcht has grown his company over the years into a sprawling enterprise that employs over 2,100 people. The Forcht Group currently consists of 22 radio stations, 19 finance company offices, 2 insurance companies, 2 newspapers, a pharmacy and diagnostic lab, a retail furniture and gift store, a construction company, real estate, and several other small businesses.

Outside of his business, Terry still manages to find time to stay involved in his community. Although he is no longer a practicing lawyer, he is still a member of the Whitley County and Kentucky Bar Associations. In the past he has been president of the Whitley County Republican Party and has run for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. He also currently serves on the board of directors of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the Kentucky Economic Development Board.

Terry’s success in business has also allowed him and his wife Marion to pursue their passion for philanthropy. They are both active members of Grace on the Hill Methodist Church and have generously donated large sums of their hard-earned money to the University of Louisville, the University of the Cumberland, and to the University of Kentucky. Many generations of Kentuckians will undoubtedly find new opportunities open to them because of Terry and Marion’s contributions to education in the State.

The Knox County Chamber 2014 Man of the Year Award is a fitting tribute to a man who has contributed so much to his community. Terry’s entrepreneurial zeal and commitment to furnishing quality higher education in his State set a glowing example for us all. Therefore, I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring this exemplary citizen.

PORTRAIT UNVEILING OF JUDGE JOHN HEYBURN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on October 3 of this year, I had the honor of speaking at the portrait unveiling of U.S. District Court Judge John G. Heyburn. I ask unanimous consent that my comments at that ceremony be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

I first met John Heyburn in 1971. Somehow, we had both found ourselves here in Louisville working for a fledgling gubernatorial candidate named Tom Emberton. It was the first of many attempts by John to derail what was otherwise destined to be a dazzling legal and judicial career with a foray into politics. And I like to think the increasingly frequent television ads many of you have seen for a certain U.S. Senate race have finally confirmed him in the view that between the two of us, he chose the nobler path.

So you’re very welcome for that, John. I assure you, it’s been an expensive lesson in career advice.

Now, I don’t remember a whole lot about that governor’s race, but I do remember what I was thinking when John and I met—that we were cut from different cloth. He came from a very prominent family here in Louisville. His dad had run for Congress back when I was in college, which I remembered. He attended boarding school up in New England . . . he went to Harvard . . . he golfed. You get the drift . . .

So what happened next was unexpected, but in retrospect entirely predictable: I liked him. I liked him a lot. And the accuracy of that first impression has been validated again and again in the decades since.

John Heyburn is just impossible not to like.

That’s the first thing to say about the man we’ve come here to honor. And I think it needs to be said, because it’s certainly not the main reason so many of us made sure to be here today. But it’s a big reason so many of us really wanted to be here, and why this is such a happy occasion. John doesn’t just inspire confidence and respect. He doesn’t just impress with his intellect and erudition. He makes you feel lucky to know him.

And I think I got a good sense for why that is on that first campaign for Tom Emberton. I mean, here was a brilliant young guy from a distinguished family, fresh out of Harvard, about a head taller than everybody else. The rest of us on the campaign were all basically operating without a license. And yet he just loved it. He brought the same enthusiasm to that race that he brings to everything else, the sense that whatever it is you’re doing, he’s interested. And as long as you put your whole self into it, it’s worth it.

John’s basic approach to life had already been set all those years ago, and I can’t think of a better way to describe it than to borrow a phrase from Oliver Wendell Holmes, who once gave the following piece of advice to a group of Boston lawyers: “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.”

The language may be a little antiquated, but I think the sentiment captures John perfectly. Because whether it’s running a marathon in college, keeping time at one of Will’s swim meets, tracking Jack’s free-throw percentages in high school, drafting a judicial decision, resolving a dispute among lawyers . . . or facing up to the physical adversities of recent years, John has done it “with all his might”.

And that’s the second thing to say about John Heyburn.