

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
BARRED FROM TURKEY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 1994

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, in what is becoming an all too frequent occurrence, I again rise to protest actions by the Turkish Government which raise serious questions about professed human rights commitments. Amnesty International's leading researcher on Turkey, Jonathen Sugden, has been declared persona non grata and is now barred from entering Turkey to look further into the deteriorating human rights situation of Turkey's Kurdish population.

Mr. Speaker, I do not need to detail for this body the excellent work Amnesty International does around the world. As cochairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I know the value of Amnesty's human rights research and reporting. Its grassroots membership around the world often serve as the eyes, ears, and conscience of governmental and nongovernmental efforts to promote human rights protections, indeed to save lives.

Over the years, the Government of Turkey has understandably resented Amnesty's attention to widespread torture, political prisoners, and the brutality used to suppress Kurds. Yet through Turkey's leadership denounced Amnesty's findings as being politically motivated and often refused to meet with Amnesty officials, they nevertheless allowed Amnesty researchers access to the country. If leaders of Turkey now believe that by barring human rights investigators they will escape embarrassing scrutiny, they have again seriously miscalculated. Such action will only draw increased interest and attention to the very practices the Government seeks to keep out of view. This issue will surely be raised at the upcoming CSCE Budapest Review Meeting Conference and will likely contribute to calls by a number of states to invoke the Moscow Human Rights Mechanism to mandate a CSCE monitoring mission to Turkey.

Mr. Speaker, the Turkish Government continues to view its human rights problems as a result of terrorism employed by the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). For years Turkish Governments have vowed to crush the PKK militarily. And while this objective is understandable, in the process of combating the PKK, the Government has waged war upon its own citizens—razing Kurdish villages, destroying livestock and crops, and forcing over 1 million Kurds to become refugees in their own country. In effect, their actions have generated more recruits for the PKK than the PKK could have ever enlisted itself.

Mr. Speaker, I am coming to believe that despite our mutual strategic and economic interests we should express serious reservations about continuing to provide the weapons Turkey uses on its own citizens. The action taken by this Congress to condition 10 percent of Turkey's foreign assistance on human rights performance indicates growing concern, yet affects only a small amount of favorable loans. Turkey also receives billions of dollars of excess defense equipment and other assistance, and perhaps it is time that we consider conditioning this.

## CLAUDE HARRIS, JR. BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM BEVILL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 1994

Mr. BEVILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of legislation introduced by my friend and colleague from Alabama, SPENCER BACHUS, to honor the late Claude Harris, Jr.

This bill would designate a building at the Tuscaloosa Veterans' Medical Center as the "Claude Harris, Jr. Building."

This is a very fitting memorial to our friend and former colleague, Claude Harris, who died Sunday.

While serving in Congress, Claude took a very special interest in veterans and as a colonel in the Alabama Army National Guard, he was very experienced in military matters. He was a champion for better health care and treatment for veterans. Naming this building for him at the Tuscaloosa Veterans' Medical Center will be a lasting tribute to a very fine public servant.

Claude certainly deserves to be honored for his many contributions while serving our State and our Nation. I only regret that he did not live to see this legislation passed.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to pay tribute to one of the finest people who ever served here. Claude Harris deserves our respect and our remembrance.

50 YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL  
EXCELLENCE

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 1994

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the scholastic excellence of the students, teachers, and administration of the Ontario Christian School.

In 1944, a small group of parents founded the Ontario Christian School in a rented garage which they renovated for \$800 into a one room schoolhouse. Since that humble beginning, the school has continued to expand into the largest private K-12 system in the Inland Empire area of California.

The high school, which is accredited by the Western Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, sends out its graduates into a variety of careers which helps serve the community as well as the State and the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the school will be celebrating its 50th anniversary during the week of October 23, 1994. This celebration will reflect the historic Christian roots that the school was founded on and retains today.

Mr. Speaker, again I want to offer my congratulations on 50 years of educational excellence to the Ontario Christian School.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 1994

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, on Monday October 3, 1994, I was unavoidably not present for rollcall votes 457, 459, 460, 461, and 462 on October 3, 1994. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each vote.

WATER RESOURCES  
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1994

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 1994

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 4460, the Water Resources Development Act of 1994 [WRDA]. Although there are many elements in this bill I support, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention the two provisions of particular interest to my constituents.

The first provision is similar to a bill I introduced last year (H.R. 2310) that would direct the Army Corps of Engineers to fully consider the prevention of the loss of human life when planning water resources projects. My legislation, which was originally conceived by our former colleague, Millicent Fenwick, garnered 13 cosponsors.

Currently, the prevention of the loss of life is not one of the principal criteria used in deciding whether to proceed with a particular water resources project. For example, the Corps considers the loss of livestock when deciding whether to build a flood-control project, yet it does not quantify human life in the same terms. In this century alone, tens of thousands of Americans have lost their lives due to flooding. Most recently, 26 people died in the flooding of the Mississippi River last year, and 31 victims perished in the Georgia floods this past summer. Clearly, if the Corps considers the loss of animals when determining the viability of a water resources project, they should be attaching even greater significance to the saving of human lives.

I believe the policy of weighing economic and environmental factors more heavily than the consideration of how many lives a flood control project could potentially save is flawed and unfair. In practice, this means affluent communities are more likely to qualify for a flood control project than poor neighborhoods whose residents are at greater risk of losing their lives. Elevating the criteria of saving human life would simply help eliminate this disparity when the Corps conducts its cost/benefit analysis of a water resources project.

As a member of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee, I am pleased that I was able to include the provisions of H.R. 2310 as Section 221 of H.R. 4460. I thank the lead Democratic cosponsor of H.R. 2310, who also serves on the House Public Works and Transportation Committee, Ms. SHEPHERD, and the other 12 cosponsors of my bill for their support.

The second important provision of H.R. 4460 concerns the Green Brook Flood Control