

The Western military analyst agreed that the armed forces control the militias, and are using them as surrogates. "There's a big disconnect between what the leadership in Jakarta is saying and what's going on on the ground," he said. "If [Defense Minister Wiranto] was unhappy with what's going on in East Timor, he would have fired some people."

There are now at least 13 militia groups in East Timor, one for each of the territory's 13 districts, with names like Red and White Iron and Aitarak. The Western military analyst said the number now could be as high as 20. The Dili police commander, Col. Timbul, said each militia has about 5,000 members.

One tactic of the militia groups is intimidation of independence supporters. Militia posts have been set up just yards from the homes of human rights activists and other independence sympathizers.

Last Wednesday night, the Portuguese consul general in Jakarta, Ana Gomes, telephoned journalists in Dili to tell them that the Aitarak militia had surrounded the home of a prominent human rights lawyer, Aniceto Gutierrez Lopes, director of the Legal Aid, Human Rights and Justice Foundation. The journalists, arriving in taxis just before midnight, found about two dozen militiamen outside Gutierrez' empty home.

Gutierrez and his family were discovered hiding in his back yard. He whispered to the reporters to stay and make sure he was not found, and to try to persuade the militia that he was not at home. He escaped, and has gone into hiding.

That episode was not unique; dozens of independence supporters, human rights workers and others have been threatened, have fled East Timor or have gone into hiding. Those who remain say they sleep in different houses each night.

Relief workers and foreign military analysts in Jakarta say the militias have a death list, with the names of prominent independence sympathizers to be killed between now and the vote, to guarantee the result the military brass prefers.

Matins, of Caritas relief agency, said he knows his name is on the list. "It's all the key persons they say have to be killed," he said, cowering in his office after receiving an early morning warning of an imminent attack.

"They believe if they kill them all, they can win the elections." He said four priests are on the list, including the Rev. Francisco Barreto who heads the Caritas office. A man stands in front of bullet holes that riddled his home during an attack by a militia group in the East Timor town of Lliquica. The militias, who are believed to have the support of the Indonesian armed forces, also rounded up an estimated 20,000 villagers who are being detained in the town. Members of this family are among thousands of East Timorese being held in tents and abandoned buildings in Lliquica. It is believed that they will be pressured to vote against independence.

#### TAX FREEDOM DAY

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I am here today because finally, Tax Freedom Day has arrived—the day the average American has earned enough income to cover his or her Federal, State and local taxes for the year. Only today—after one-third of the year has already passed—have our working men and women earned enough money to pay their taxes for the year! This is truly amazing, and it is also truly wrong.

Tax Freedom Day has moved successively later into the year for the past 7

years, as the Federal Government seeks to claim a larger and larger portion of the American family income. Since 1993, Federal tax revenues have grown 52 percent faster than personal income growth. And last year alone, Federal revenues grew 80 percent faster than personal income.

Florida's Tax Freedom Day is even later—Floridians will not finish earning enough to pay their taxes for the year until Friday, May 14. They also shoulder the 5th heaviest total tax burden in the country.

In 1999, Federal, State and local governments are projected to collect an average of \$10,298 in tax revenue for every person in the country. This year, the Federal Government will collect more tax revenue as a share of GDP—that is 20.7 percent—than at any time since 1944. This is the highest level in peacetime history.

If that isn't enough to put the high Federal tax take into perspective, let me share with you a few examples of just how much taxes impede our freedom every day of the year.

I brought with me a daily tax clock to illustrate just how many different times we are taxed in ways we may not even realize. Think about the different things you do in the course of your average day. Planning your family's summer vacation? Forty percent of the cost of an airline ticket is taxes! When you drive to and from work today, 54 percent of the price of a gallon of gasoline is taxes. Did you call your mother on Mother's Day? Fifty percent of the cost of your phone bill is due to taxes.

Taxes infringe on our freedom—our freedom to work, our freedom to invest and our freedom to provide for our families. It is more apparent than ever that the mammoth Federal Government we have created will never be satisfied—if there is money to be had, the Federal Government will take it.

That is why it is more important than ever to provide tax relief to our families. We have a balanced budget, and soon we will be working with a Federal surplus. If the Federal Government has its way, this overpayment of taxes by the American people will be spent in Washington on new Federal programs. We need to give the American people their money back. I have proposed a tax plan which will do just that by, No. 1, providing tax relief for all American income taxpayers, No. 2, encouraging economic growth and, No. 3, ensuring U.S. technological leadership in the 21st century.

We need to ensure the United States keeps its status as an economic powerhouse in the next millennium. The Federal Government's role in ensuring this happens is to cut taxes and get out of the way to give the American people the freedom to pursue their own dream—not Washington's.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY LOCK BOX

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, twice, the Senate has failed to invoke

cloture on the Social Security Lock Box. I am a cosponsor of this important amendment and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in support for a Social Security lock box.

For several years, Congress has taken all the money out of the Social Security Trust Fund and spent it on other programs. In fact, through the end of last year, Congress has taken over \$730 billion out of the trust fund and spent it all on other programs.

I believe that it is wrong to spend Social Security Trust Fund money on other programs. If a private corporation were to take money out of an employees' pension plan and spend it on something else, the executives of that corporation would, under Congress' own laws, be subject to prosecution and imprisonment. Why do we allow Congress to raid Social Security, the pension fund for all Americans?

Each time our government takes money out of the Social Security Trust Funds, it incurs a debt to these funds. To date, the government has incurred total debts of over \$730 billion to the Social Security Trust Funds. The debts owed to these funds are included in the calculation of our total national debt which now stands at roughly \$5.5 trillion. This debt, along with the program's massive unfunded liabilities, will ultimately have to be paid by future taxpayers.

The lock box proposal would ban Congress from spending Social Security Trust Fund monies on other programs (unless there is a super-majority vote to do so). Those who oppose the lockbox proposal want to continue spending Social Security Trust Funds on other new and unrelated programs.

While I believe that we need to take other steps to protect Social Security, I nevertheless believe that this lockbox provision is an important first step in ensuring the long-term fiscal health of our nation. By making it more difficult to spend Social Security Trust Funds on other programs, we will make it easier for ourselves to meet our obligation to Social Security in the future.

#### FINANCIAL SERVICES MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to speak briefly about the historic legislation passed in the Senate last week, S.900, Financial Services Modernization Act. I want to again commend Chairman PHIL GRAMM, the Senator from Texas for the outstanding work that he did leading us through the process of passing that landmark piece of banking reform legislation. Senator GRAMM is perhaps the most knowledgeable person on U.S. banking law. He was diligent in seeing that the action began last year in the Banking Committee came to fruition this year. He also took to heart the admonition we've given to the entire banking community to keep things in plain English. He simplified last year's bill, reduced it from 308 pages to 150 pages. Before we