

opponents began to take place on almost a daily basis. For its part, the LTTE reportedly suspects the GSL of assisting the Karuna faction. In any case, through mid-August 2004, according to human rights advocates, there have been more than 40 such murders.

As the Indian newspaper *The Hindu* editorialized on September 30, "It is time for all concerned to acknowledge that the LTTE has done nothing less than unleash a terrorist campaign amounting to a sub-guerrilla war against the very people it claims to represent. From the recruitment of children, which continues unabated despite international outrage, to the harassment of Muslims, the discrimination against eastern Tamils, and the killings of opponents, the LTTE demonstrates on a daily basis that its rule is by fear and terror."

In this troubling circumstance, it is clear that the international community needs to consider additional steps to put pressure on the LTTE to abandon its tactics of terror and prove that its days of violence are over.

It is remarkable, for example, that only four countries—the U.S., U.K., Australia, and India—have declared the LTTE to be sponsors of terrorism, frozen their assets and prohibited financial transactions with the Tigers. It is well reported that alongside a finely tuned propaganda campaign, the LTTE also run a sophisticated international fundraising campaign. The majority of financial support comes from the Tamil Diaspora in countries where there is no ban on transactions with the Tigers, including Switzerland, Canada, and the Scandinavian countries. It is my understanding that the LTTE's overseas financing includes investments in real estate, restaurants, stocks, and money market funds. Even film, food festivals, and cultural events may contribute to insurgent income. The U.S. Department of State also reports that expatriate Tamil communities in Europe have been tied to narcotics smuggling, another potential source of funding. In this context, surely the stark record of LTTE terrorism demands a firmer response from our friends and allies abroad.

Likewise, in view of the current stalemate in the peace process and the new campaign of violence by the LTTE, it is appropriate that the U.S. review the adequacy of current levels of security assistance to Colombo. In particular, in view of the mixed operational success of the armed forces of Sri Lanka, the Department of Defense and U.S. Pacific Command may want to consider increasing senior level military exchanges as well as boosting technical assistance. In this regard, I understand that in recent months senior officials with PACOM visited Sri Lanka, including the Jaffna peninsula.

Similarly, given the long and sordid track record of the Tigers—including continued abductions of child soldiers—as well as ongoing concerns about disappearances and other abuses in government controlled areas, it is also high time to place on the table an explicit inclusion of human rights and humanitarian considerations in either the current cease-fire agreement or in a separate understanding between the GSL and the LTTE. All parties must promptly take steps to end ongoing grave human rights abuses.

Finally, it is imperative that all parties take steps to work to rebuild trust and schedule the promised talks as soon as possible. In particular, it is incumbent on the LTTE to show that it is committed to a political solution and

to peace. Clearly, the ceasefire and a return to negotiations represent the best hope for Sri Lanka's future as a peaceful, prosperous, and unified nation. As the Department of State has made clear, the United States stands ready to implement commitments to aid in Sri Lanka's reconstruction, but this will only be possible through a continuation of the peace process.

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#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO TROY BLEDSOE

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Troy Bledsoe, a dedicated coach and athlete from Alamosa, Colorado. Troy was recently inducted in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame for his long history of dedication to athletics in Colorado, and I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Troy knows what it means to be an athlete because he was a multiple letter winner in football, basketball, and tennis at Hendrix College in 1949. Troy began his coaching career with 6 years of high school coaching in Arkansas before moving onto the college level. He led several basketball, golf, football, and volleyball teams to championship seasons at Fort Lewis College and the University of Denver. Troy was also the chairman of the Exercise Science Department at Fort Lewis, and the Director of Athletics for 18 years. Troy was instrumental in the creation of the Fort Lewis College Athletic Hall of Fame, of which he himself was inducted into in 1995. One of Troy's biggest legacies is the award bearing his name for the male and female senior student-athletes with the highest grade point averages that are presented at the all-sports banquets every spring.

Mr. Speaker, Troy Bledsoe is an energetic coach that encourages his athletes to work hard to achieve their dreams both on and off the athletic arena. He has demonstrated a love for coaching that resonates in his compassionate and selfless service to the Colorado athletic community. Troy's enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this Nation. Congratulations on your induction Troy, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF RULES CHANGE

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 2004*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I join in a bipartisan way, with my colleague Representative CHRISTOPHER SHAYS from Connecticut, Representative JOHN DINGELL, the distinguished Dean of the House, and my friends and colleagues Representatives ED CASE, MAX SANDLIN, and DENNIS CARDOZA to introduce a bill that addresses the serious security threats that are impacting our Nation. According to the recommendations of the 9/11

Commission, Congress must reorganize to provide more effective oversight of our Nation's intelligence and homeland security efforts. This bill effectively deals with the problems by doing the following things:

1. Creates a permanent standing Committee on Homeland Security—[According to the 9/11 Commission, leaders of the Department of Homeland Security now appear before 88 committees and subcommittee of Congress. This is "perhaps the single largest obstacle impeding the department's successful development." Currently, the Committee on Homeland Security is simply a Select Committee];

2. Creates a permanent standing Committee on Intelligence—[According to the 9/11 Commission, Congressional oversight for intelligence and counterterrorism is "dysfunctional" and the Intelligence Committee is simply a Select Committee];

3. Creates a 14th Appropriations Subcommittee on Intelligence—[According to the 9/11 Commission, the Intelligence Committee should have authorizing and appropriating authority].

Last week during markup of H.R. 10 in six committees, members and committees alike were uncertain of their jurisdiction over various parts of the bill. In fact, no single committee had overarching jurisdiction, so there was no mechanism to address the bill in its entirety. This proposed rules change will fix this problem. We cannot rely solely on the Executive Branch to solve our problems. We must not shirk our responsibilities as elected officials, and instead do everything in our power to prevent another tragedy from occurring. For these reasons, I am proud to introduce this important resolution.

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#### COMMEMORATING NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY

### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize October 15 as National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. The theme for this year is "Abre los ojos: el VIH no tiene fronteras—Open Your Eyes: HIV Has No Boundaries." On this day, in over 150 cities throughout the United States, Latino leadership will honor the theme as they sponsor a variety of activities raising awareness of the state of AIDS among Latinos.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day was first observed in 2003. Since then, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported that HIV infections among Latinos have risen 26 percent. Latinos in the United States are disproportionately affected by the virus and make up 20 percent of reported AIDS cases, even though Latinos are only 14 percent of the total United States population. As of 2002, the CDC also estimates that 28,364 Latinos are living with HIV and 76,052 are living with AIDS.

Statistics are important in order to understand the epidemic. However, we must also recognize the needs of the Latino communities confronted with the virus. Latinos face several obstacles and cultural barriers when it comes to accessing HIV prevention services. The lack of funding for culturally competent HIV