

STATEMENT BY MARY ROBINSON, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHIAPAS, MEXICO

I have been following with mounting concern the situation of human rights in the Chiapas region of Mexico. News reports and almost daily submissions from representatives of indigenous groups and NGOs indicate an alarming deterioration over the past several days.

These reports paint a grim picture of an atmosphere of fear among the indigenous people of Chiapas caught between government forces supported by officially funded militias on one side and armed resistant groups on the other. Such conflict does not serve the interests of anyone.

The deaths of nine people in what has been reported as an action by government forces in the town of San Juan de la Libertad this week is just the latest in a string of violent incidents in a region already affected by widespread displacement, dispossession and severe poverty.

These are serious violations of the rights of indigenous people. As High Commissioner and as the UN Coordinator for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, I appeal to the Government of Mexico to look urgently at ways of restoring dialogue with communities in Chiapas. A reduction in the military presence in the region could be an important first step in restoring confidence that a peaceful solution might be found. This would also contribute to improving the current climate of fear.

The Office of the High Commissioner is prepared to assist the Government in meeting its obligations under the International Covenants and other human rights treaties it has ratified including ILO Convention 169 of 1989 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. We would also welcome opportunities to assist civil society organizations active in promoting respect for human rights as an essential condition for improving the lives of people in Chiapas.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF ROSEVILLE'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to send birthday greetings to a special city at the heart of Michigan's 10th Congressional District. On June 20, 1998, the City of Roseville will celebrate its 40th birthday and will dedicate a new library addition. Citizens of Roseville will gather at the Civic Center grounds for food and family entertainment in honor of this historic occasion.

When Michigan became a state in 1837, this area was a small farming community known first as Orange Township, then as Erin Township. As history tells us, William Rose was appointed as the area's first postmaster in 1836. In a tribute to his father, Denison Rose, a hero of the War of 1812, William established the Roseville Post Office. Gradually, the whole community became known as Roseville.

Years passed and the residents witnessed great changes such as a plank toll road and the Rapid Electric Interurban. Churches, schools and libraries were established as spiritual, educational, and cultural centers. In the 1950s, the area experienced a population explosion. Homes, shopping centers, industrial

plants, and highways were developed. In 1958, the booming village was incorporated as the City of Roseville.

As the 52,000 members of this community celebrate their past, they are also anticipating a bright future. With the dedication of the new addition to Roseville Library, the city is dedicating a living piece of history. Mr. Long, who founded the institution in 1936 said, "No town should be without a library." Since it has opened, the Library has changed locations, expanded, and become "the information place" for the citizens of Roseville.

On the 40th Anniversary of the City of Roseville, we celebrate the people who have made this community a diverse and wonderful place to live. I would like to extend my congratulations on this historic occasion and best wishes for a successful future.

HONORING SHEPARD COLEMAN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today it is with sadness that I rise to recognize the life of Shepard Coleman, a talented musician and award winning musical conductor. I wish to call to the attention of our colleagues the outstanding talents of Shepard Coleman, who made his home in Orange County, New York. On June 27, there will be a memorial service for Shepard Coleman in Sugarloaf, New York, at the Lycian Center.

Shep Coleman was an accomplished musician who for many years was the leading cellist with the New York Philharmonic. The Washington Post reported on May 17, that as a graduate of the Julliard School of Music, Shep Coleman was a pit musician in many Broadway musicals from 1946 to 1960. He played under Leonard Bernstein for more than twenty years, as well as playing for Frank Sinatra. In 1964, Shep Coleman won a Tony Award for his magnificent musical direction of the Broadway hit, "Hello Dolly".

Shep Coleman was extremely active in local theater productions. He was a loving teacher as well as a great performer. He was also a strong supporter of many AIDS charities and art organizations. When he moved to Warwick, New York, he became active in their Humane Society. Shep Coleman continually gave of himself for the benefit of our entire community.

I came to personally know Shep through his advocacy for the Arts in our home region. Shep was the kind of person who placed a high premium on attracting young people to the Arts and encouraging them to develop their talents. Shep never hesitated to remind me that by stimulating the Arts Community, we are helping the economy of our entire region.

Shep Coleman was an articulate, unique individual who will long be missed greatly by his friends and neighbors in Orange County, New York.

Shep is survived by his sister, Diana Hoffman, of New York City, his brother, Aaron Coleman also of New York City, and his nephews Robert and Kenneth Hoffman.

Shep Coleman lived to the age of 74. He was always involved in so many different aspects of our communities, always devoting himself to a good cause. Mr. Speaker, I invite

all my colleagues to join me in honoring Shepard Coleman. We have lost an outstanding talent and a great friend.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. BOB BERRY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding service of Dr. Bob Berry of Yucaipa, California. Bob, the Chief Information Officer for the Information Systems Department at the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Office in San Bernardino, is moving to Michigan shortly to pursue a wonderful professional opportunity with Central Michigan University.

Bob graduated from Central Michigan University in 1969 with a double major in Biological Science and Instrumental Music. Three years later, he earned a MA degree in Curriculum Development and Educational Administration from CMU. In 1979, Bob completed his Doctor of Education degree at Northern Arizona University.

Dr. Berry began his professional career at the Fowler Public School System in Michigan serving as Director of Instrumental Music (1969-74) and Principal of Fowler High School (1974-1976). From 1976-84, he worked at Northern Arizona University as Assistant Director of Research and Development, Assistant Professor of Educational Administration, and Executive Director of the Arizona Public Schools Computer Consortium.

In 1984, Bob became Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. In this capacity, he has had the responsibility of planning, organizing, and implementing all administrative financial processing requirements for the educational agencies within San Bernardino County, the largest in the United States. In addition, the CIO also serves as the executive director of the California Educational Computer Consortium comprised of other California county offices of education, school districts and community colleges. The consortium, comprised of over 249 agencies, pools its financial resources for applications software development and services.

Over the years, Bob has served as professional consultant for a number of school districts across the United States in computer systems, budgeting, and networking. In addition, he has served in numerous professional development capacities and has had numerous articles published in educational journals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing Dr. Bob Berry as he prepares for his latest professional challenge. To say the least, his fine work with the San Bernardino County School District will be greatly missed. I'd like to join County Superintendent, Barry Pulliam, and others in wishing Bob Berry the very best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ED VEGELY AND
LLOYD HOBBY

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ed Vegely and Lloyd Hobby upon their retirement from Mariposa County High School. Ed and Lloyd have provided many years of dedicated instruction and coaching to the students of Mariposa County High School in Mariposa, California. I commend these exceptional educators for their dedication and commitment to our youth.

Ed Vegely has been teaching the youth of Mariposa County High School since 1965. He was born on December 28, 1936. Ed attended Merced High School, Modesto Junior College, and eventually completed his higher education at California State University, Fresno. He has been recognized as the Mariposa County High School "Teacher of the Year" three times. Ed served as the Mariposa County High School varsity football coach from 1965–1981. During that 16 year period, Ed Vegely was able to achieve a record of 95 wins, 56 losses, and five ties, and has taken the team to five league championships. He not only provided an exceptional service as a varsity football coach, but also served as the varsity basketball coach in 1966 and 1970–1996. During this time as the Mariposa County High basketball coach, he achieved a record of 366 wins, 288 losses, and 13 ties, taking the team to six league championships.

Lloyd Hobby has been providing exceptional instruction to the students of Mariposa County High School since 1964. Lloyd attended Sonora High School and completed his higher education at Sacramento State University. He has served as the Mariposa High Varsity basketball coach for 30 years. During his time as the varsity basketball coach, he has achieved a record of 475 wins and 298 losses, taking the team to nine league championships. Lloyd is a four-time Mariposa County High School "Teacher of the Year" recipient and was recognized as the "Athletic Director of the Year" for the entire state of California in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Ed Vegely and Lloyd Hobby upon their retirement from Mariposa County High School. Ed and Lloyd have both exhibited a dedication and care for the education and instruction of our youth. I applaud their many achievements and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Ed Vegely and Lloyd Hobby the best of luck with any future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO TOBY KEELER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Toby Keeler, for his leadership and efforts to improve the quality of life in our community. Toby is a determined, hard working individual who has dedicated countless hours to the Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation and has enhanced the area in the process.

During his term as President of the Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation from 1995 to 1997, Toby repeatedly lobbied on behalf of those he represented.

First, Toby played an instrumental role in orchestrating the Las Virgenes opposition to a massive commercial development that threatened to destroy most of the natural area adjacent to the 101 Freeway. After this successful effort, Toby redesigned a controversial park center project, a move which ultimately guaranteed its construction.

Later in his term as President, Toby rallied support for a proposition that raised necessary funding to keep open several fire stations, and campaigned to increase land acquisition funding for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

In another display of his support for the environment, Toby organized opposition to the SOKA University project in the Santa Monica Mountains which would have allowed construction on protected lands.

Toby is also a former member of the Planning Commission for the City of Calabasas, and is the current President of the Old Topanga Homeowners Association, where he has continued in his role as a community leader.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Toby Keeler. He has shown an unwavering commitment to the community and deserves our recognition and praise.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN DAVID

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the achievements of a very special woman, a dear friend, Mrs. Helen David. For sixty years, Helen David has been the owner of the Brass Rail, a unique bar in the heart of Port Huron. On June 15, 1998, community members and friends will join Helen at the Brass Rail to celebrate the sixtieth birthday of the Brass Rail.

Prior to June 15, 1937, the Brass Rail was a quaint ice cream shop named Hibble's Ice Cream Polar. The sweet shop was owned and operated by Helen's parents, Tony and Elizabeth Hibble. After the death of her father, Helen transformed the ice cream shop with the support of her mother and aunt. In 1939, Helen fell in love and married Sol David. Until his death in 1967, Helen and Sol worked side by side creating a popular Port Huron tradition.

In Port Huron, Helen is known not only as a smart business woman, she is recognized as a community leader and humanitarian. Throughout the years Helen has been a member of the Quota Club, an organization designed to help the hearing impaired. She has also been honored for her work with St. Jude's Children's Hospital by the North America Benefit Association. Recently Helen made a major contribution to the St. Clair County Council on Aging to help establish a new senior center in Port Huron.

In six decades, Helen David's warm personality, her commitment to her patrons and her involvement in the community have endeared

her to many people throughout St. Clair County. Very few people have the spirit and dedication to give to their community as Helen has given to hers. I would like to congratulate Helen as she celebrates her historic milestone of sixty years in business.

THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PLAN TO FIGHT DRUGS VERSUS
LEGALIZATION

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the U.N. General Assembly recently took up the problem of international drug production and trade as it moved forward with an emerging consensus that all of the nations of the globe must fight this scourge together, and stop the finger pointing.

The U.N. proposal that emerged was an ambitious yet doable plan to eliminate the production of cocaine and heroin in 10 years, although regrettably the means to finance this important proposal were not found.

In Monday's New York Times, columnist A.M. Rosenthal points out another battle in the war on drugs, the effort of many who favor "legalization" to discredit the U.N. anti-drug efforts and to camouflage their own worldwide cause to foster legalization by the use of nice sounding phrases like "harm reduction."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Mr. Rosenthal's informative column be reprinted herein. It points out the nature of this legalization campaign which reflects a sense of failure, lack of political will, and submission to the evils of illicit drugs that few Americans, or others around the globe support, or would ever subject their children and future generations to under the guise of such a misdirected solution.

[From the New York Times, June 12, 1998]

(A.M. Rosenthal)

POINTING THE FINGER

The three-day meeting on fighting drugs was one of the more useful United Nations conferences in decades. It was well led by Pino Arlacchi, the Italian Mafia-buster, drew chiefs of state and narcotics specialists from every part of the world, and wound up with a plan to eliminate the growing of illegal heroin and cocaine in 10 years—certainly difficult but certainly doable.

So, months before the opening Monday, a campaign to attack the conference was planned. It was worked out by Americans who devote their careers and foundation grants not to struggling against narcotics but legalizing them under one camouflage or another.

Before the first gavel, they were ready with advertisements writing off the conference, had rounded up American and European signatures denouncing the war against drugs as a failure, and had mobilized their network of web sites.

They convinced one or two convincing journalists that people opposed to the anti-drug effort had been banned from talking at meetings of specialists and organizations. That's strange, because at the very first forum I attended there were as many legalizers as drug fighters making statements and asking questions.

The propaganda was professionally crafted. Hundreds of well-known people and wannabes signed an opening-day two-page