

as much if not more than any other nation on the list.

Malaysia, whose ranking was upgraded to the Tier 2 Watch List last year on the flimsiest of justifications and fears it would be disqualified from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, was allowed to maintain its Tier 2 Watch List ranking—despite the fact that Malaysia faltered in its anti-trafficking progress over the last year. In fact, Malaysia, a country with 4 million migrant workers, prosecuted fewer trafficking cases and convicted only 7 traffickers last year—that's less than when it was a Tier 3 country.

Meanwhile, women from Burma, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Nepal are trafficked to China for forced marriages or sexual exploitation. North Korean laborers worked under conditions described by experts as forced or slave labor to earn income for the North Korean government. Prisoners of conscience and other prisoners continue to be held in administration detention facilities where there are numerous credible reports of prisoners being trafficked for the purpose of organ harvesting.

The State Department must get the TIP Report right, or we will lose the foundational tool created to help the more than 20 million victims of trafficking enslaved around the world today.

A tier ranking is about protecting vulnerable lives—lives destroyed or saved by the on-the-ground impact of a government's inaction or action.

The easiest cases for a Tier 3 ranking should be those where the government itself is profiting from human trafficking, such as in Cuba, where thousands of Cuban medical professionals labor in dangerous countries not of their choosing, their passports taken, their movements restricted, their families and licenses threatened—and their salaries heavily garnished—by the Cuban government. It is not a coincidence that Cuban law does not recognize labor trafficking.

Maria Werlau testified at our hearing in March that, “. . . trafficking is a huge operation run by the government through numerous state enterprises with . . . accomplices, participants, sponsors, and promoters all over the world.” Cuba is also a known destination for child sex tourists, and Cuba reports no convictions for child sex tourism.

Yet, Cuba is ranked Tier 2 Watch List.

We've seen many countries take a Tier 3 ranking seriously and make real, systemic changes that improved their tier rankings, but more importantly, protected trafficking victims—countries such as South Korea and Israel.

When the Bush administration branded South Korea and Israel Tier 3 based on their records, both countries enacted and implemented policies to combat human trafficking and were given earned upgrades for their verifiable actions. But other countries attempt to end-run the accountability system with endless, empty promises of action or mostly meaningless gestures of compliance.

China sat on the Tier 2 Watch List for eight years, each year promising the State Department they would implement their anti-trafficking plan. Each year, the State Department took the bait until Congress put a limit on the Tier 2 Watch List—two years only, unless the President gives the country a waiver. Well, China has once again promised to implement

a plan—and the President just gave them a waiver to stay on the Watch List a third year.

Tier rankings are about real prosecutions, real prevention, and real protection—for real people who are suffering as slaves. The TIP Report was meant to speak for the trafficking victims waiting, hoping, and praying for relief.

While the 2016 TIP Report speaks for many of them, too many are still unheard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION ON CONCURRING IN THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO S. 764

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not present for the vote on concurring in the Senate Amendment to the House Amendment to S. 764, dealing with labeling requirements for genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Had I been here, I would have supported this legislation as a step forward in improving consumers' right to know more about the products they consume.

I appreciate that many of my constituents, like many across the country, have expressed a desire to know whether the food they purchase and consume contains GMO ingredients. However, the status quo does not work for consumers, for manufacturers, or for our country.

Today, if a consumer wants to know more about where the ingredients in their food come from, it is far from an easy process. Some manufacturers choose to print it on the packaging, others don't. Some define a genetically modified ingredient one way, others another.

There's not much more clarity right now for food manufacturers. Depending on the state or even city, they may face different requirements about what foods to label, what ingredients need to be labeled, or how the label should look. Many companies have started taking steps to provide more information, but the lack of a consistent standard makes it difficult for consumers to access this information in an easy way.

The bill that came before the House is not perfect, but I believe it moves us in the right direction. It creates a national standard, instead of a patchwork of state and local laws. And under this standard, it will be mandatory, not voluntary, for manufacturers to disclose whether a product has genetically-modified ingredients, which will now be clearly defined.

The measure includes some flexibility for manufacturers to determine for their products what format makes the most sense for this disclosure, but I am pleased that there are clear requirements in place that this disclosure must meet. There is certainly more that can be done to build awareness about what to look for on packaging and how the information can be used, and so I believe this bill can be the first step in a process of education and information-sharing that will help consumers. I also believe the use of electronic scannable codes holds a lot of promise, particularly as manufacturers come together to standardize the codes and information that is provided. I strongly feel that this information should remain easily accessible to the consumer, so

that once a code is scanned, there is a direct link to information such as GMO disclosure, ingredients, and nutrition facts. I am heartened that many manufacturers have begun recognizing the need to make this information clearly available, and I look forward to continued progress in this area.

Overall, I believe that the legislation considered by the House is a needed step forward from the situation we have today, and a significant improvement from previous legislation that did not require the kind of labeling that consumers have asked for. I support this version of the legislation, and I look forward to continuing to work to strengthen our food safety, nutrition, and anti-hunger laws and programs so that all consumers are able to access healthy, affordable food for themselves and their families.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 467 (H.R. 5631), which took place Thursday July 14, 2016; I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE. I firmly stand with my colleagues in the House in support of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016.

RECOGNIZING WARE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ware County High School Robotics Team for winning the world championship at the 2016 Vex World Robotics Championship in Louisville, Kentucky.

The students of Ware County High submitted two robots into the tournament—2015C, known as C-Bot, and 2015A, known as A-Bot.

Both robots performed extremely well in Louisville, in the qualifying rounds. C-Bot won 4th place in programming skills while A-Bot finished with a high ranking in technology skills. Each robot finished in the top 50 within their divisions.

Because of its performance in the qualifying rounds, the C-Bot was chosen to be part of a small team to compete for the world title where it was allied with robots from Connecticut.

This alliance won the final competition for the world championship.

The world title is an impressive achievement as 500 teams from North and South America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East competed for the prestigious honor.

I rise today to congratulate the Ware County High students on their hard work and achievement as they bring world-wide recognition to their school and the First Congressional District of Georgia.

THE CASTRO REGIME'S ONGOING
VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it has been one year and eight months since President Obama announced a major change in our country's policy towards Cuba.

It has been eleven months since Secretary Kerry visited Havana and reopened our embassy.

And it has been nearly four months since our President visited Cuba.

Clearly, a lot has changed in just over a year and a half.

But for the people of Cuba, what has changed?

At a hearing I convened last week, we examined the sorry state of civil and political rights in the Castro brothers' Cuba, and how, despite all the promises by this administration that an opening to Cuba will lead to a greater opening domestically for the Cuban people we still see political repression—including, it must be noted, repression directed at the Afro-Cuban population.

This is not the first time this subcommittee has expressed concern about the lack of openness to democracy and dissent in Cuba. In fact, one of our witnesses, the courageous Dr. Oscar Biscet, offered dramatic testimony before this subcommittee in February of 2012, when he testified via telephone from the U.S. Interests Section in Havana after evading the Cuban police to get there.

Likewise, on February 5, 2015 we held a hearing entitled "Human Rights in Cuba: An opportunity squandered," wherein we asked whether the Obama administration had used the considerable leverage that it wields to seek to better the condition of the Cuban people, or whether it was squandering the opportunity.

Since then, our fear that the administration has not been pushing sufficiently for the release of political prisoners and other human rights concerns has only grown, with the focus on Obama's "legacy" instead of the Cuban people.

For example, when President Obama made his visit to Cuba, he and Raul Castro appeared in a photo op press conference. CNN's Jim Acosta, much to his credit, asked the hard question about Cuba's political prisoners.

Raul Castro, much to his discredit, denied that there were ANY political prisoners in Cuba. "Give me a list of the political prisoners and I will release them immediately," Castro taunted. "Just mention the list."

And President Obama just stood there.

Well, Mr. President, I have a list, of more than fifty political prisoners compiled by my good friend and colleague ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN.

This is a list that President Obama should have had in breast pocket, ready to pull out when Raul Castro dared him to call his bluff.

When I came to Congress in 1981, with Ronald Reagan, in the days of the old Soviet Union, one of the first issues I worked on was the plight of Soviet Jews and refuseniks who were either imprisoned or not allowed to leave the Soviet Union. I recall George Shultz, when

he was Secretary of State, saying that whenever he met with his Soviet counterpart, and from him down to the lowest State Department officer, he would bring with him a list of imprisoned dissidents and human rights advocates. Front and center of any discussion, whether about nuclear arms or tensions in the Middle East, Secretary Shultz would bring up dissidents, naming them by name. It was this constant focus on human rights that helped move the Soviet government to allow Jews and others to leave the Soviet Union, people such as the great Natan Sharansky.

And I have another list of names, that of six members of the Cuban National Front of Civic Resistance who have applied for visas to come to the United States but for some reason, inexplicably, our State Department has refused to allow to visit the United States. These are:

Orlando Gómez Echavarría
Jose Alberto Alvarez Bravo
Yaíte Diasnell Cruz Sosa
Yoel Bravo López
Lázaro Ricardo Fiallo López
Ciro Aleixis Casanova Pérez

I call upon Secretary Kerry to allow these brave people entry to the United States, so that they can meet with me and my colleagues and enlighten us further as to the current state of affairs in Cuba.

Finally, I note that the administration has failed to secure the release of fugitives from justice such as Joanne Chesimard, who is on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist list, convicted of killing New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster. The administration must insist upon the unconditional return of Chesimard and all other fugitives from justice, as well as demand that the Castro regime respect the civil and political rights of the Cuban people, before making any further concessions.

And to underscore the point, unconditional means unconditional—there should be no "swap" whereby we exchange convicted Cuban spies Ana Montes or Kendall Meyers for these fugitives as a concession to the Castro regime. The effect of that would be to trade Americans who have committed crimes in the United States for other Americans who have committed crimes in the United States, demoralizing our intelligence community further in the process.

With that, I want to turn to our witnesses, noting as I do that last week, on July 13, it was the anniversary of the tugboat massacre of 1994, when 37 victims, including 11 children, were killed by the regime. How little has changed for the Cuban people.

POEM BY ALBERT CAREY
CASWELL IN HONOR OF ARNOLD
SCHWARZENEGGER

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem written by Albert Carey Caswell in honor of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's upcoming 69th birthday.

69 REPS TO BE THE BEST

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

69 reps to be the best
Do we lead or do we rest?

Do we build on our success?
Do we fall or do we crest?
Do we follow or do we lead?
To give our world what she so needs
Do we live large not narrow?
Do we work out and do it now oh?
Do we crush it,
To find victory as such it
Only by living the golden rule,
Will we so shine like a jewel
Pumping up our world so full
Telling fear see you later
Why you could even be the governor
Scheduling doubt for termination
Eraser
Telling it to "get out"
Don't be afraid to fail
That's the only way victory to nail
To make dynamic gains
You must feel the burn, the pain
And what will we create,
With each new rep that we so take
For the greatness we so yearn
69 reps to be the best
You must give your heart and soul
To turn your dreams into gold
By stretching ourselves beyond belief,
For victory to achieve
As your dreams you seek
Saying "hasta la vista baby" to living meek
Leaving dynamic gains all in your wake
As quaddzilla steps you take
All in what our heart's create
Don't be a girly man
Like a commando take a stand
69 reps to be the best
And what is the true measure of a man?
Who before us now so stands
For life is so very short
So then what is it that we all hope to sport?
All in the days of our lives report
And who do we lift up?
When in tough times never giving up?
To make our lives so buff
All in our reps of life's as such
Do we dare to push the envelope?
To make dynamic gains all in our approach
All in what our heart's invoke
For we only have so many rep's to our world
bless
To be the best
We must be bold,
We must be strong
We must work hard all day and night long
If we wish to write our life's song
And as the years progress some of us shall
not grow old
Men like arnold never do so
Whose heart's never run cold
With his heart of a child so yo
Who see's the good in all he beholds
Whose smile to all heart's call so
Who never stop's believing as new dreams he
conceiving
For he knows not the word defeat even
And failure is not an option conceiving
All in his austrian-american heart which is
beating
Is a heart of a child who against all odds is
competing
As he let's his dreams run wild
With his greatest of all smiles and cham-
pionship style
If you want to get to the mountain top?
There's only one way, straight up
69 rep's, but there's a lot more left
In this american hero to flex
Maybe, sixty-nine more?
"work out, do it now" "crush it" "get in the
chopper"
69 rep's to be the best.