

TAPE FOR WEEK OF OCTOBER 28

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL

IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, WE HAVE WITNESSED TWO OUTRAGEOUS ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST AMERICANS -- THE COLD-BLOODED MURDER OF LEON KLINGHOFFER ABOARD THE ACHILLE LAURO AND THE BOMBING DEATH OF ALEX ODEH WHEN HIS AMERICAN-ARAB ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE OFFICE DOOR BLEW UP AS HE OPENED IT.

TERRORISM, BE IT STATE-SPONSORED OR BY PRIVATE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS, HAS NO PLACE IN OUR SOCIETY; NOR DOES THE DENIAL OF FREE SPEECH. ALEX ODEH WAS MURDERED BECAUSE HE EXPRESSED A POINT OF VIEW THAT DID NOT COINCIDE WITH THAT OF A TERRORIST THUG. ALEX ODEH'S EXPRESSION OF FREE SPEECH COST HIM HIS LIFE.

I FIND IT REPREHENSIBLE THAT SUCH AN OUTRAGEOUS DENIAL OF A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT CAN TAKE PLACE RIGHT HERE IN OUR OWN COUNTRY. WE MUST NOT ALLOW THE SCOURGE OF TERRORISM TO SILENCE OUR RIGHT TO SPEAK OUR MINDS. THE CONCEPT OF FREE SPEECH IS WHAT THIS COUNTRY IS ALL ABOUT; AND WE ALL MUST WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT THAT RIGHT IS PROTECTED.

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.