

**TRIBUTE TO DOBROSLAV PARAGA -- HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.
(Extension of Remarks - September 11, 1989)**

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HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

in the House of Representatives

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1989

- Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dobroslav Paraga, a Croatian dissident and human rights activist who has delivered his message of human rights' abuses in Yugoslavia to the citizens of the United States.
- Mr. Paraga represents all groups in Yugoslavia to whom human rights have been denied, including Croatians, Slovenians, and Albanians. He was made to suffer physical and psychological punishment in a Yugoslav jail for 4 years for seeking signatures to a petition for general amnesty for the over 2,500 political prisoners in his nation.
- Following his imprisonment, Paraga was given a passport by his government and forbidden to publicly speak out about his experiences as a political prisoner or about human rights abuses in Yugoslavia. He has, however, spread the word throughout Europe and the United States. He now plans to return to his native Yugoslavia to continue his struggle for the freedom of all minority groups. He risks imprisonment upon his return for his brave actions.
- Mr. Speaker, Yugoslavia has jailed more of its citizens for political reasons than any other nation in Eastern Europe. In addition, more than 10,000 Yugoslavians have been denied the right to bear a passport. I commend Mr. Paraga for fearlessly speaking out for all Yugoslavian, ethnic minorities who have no voice. I give him my wholehearted support in his quest for their liberty.

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