

which neither parent graduated from college. These students, motivated by their hopes and aspirations, are living symbols of the American dream. Helping to lift them out of poverty benefits not only benefits the students themselves, but our entire nation.

There are 62 TRIO Programs in Wisconsin and I have seen these programs work at the local level. One inspirational story involves Dr. Lo from La Crosse, Wisconsin. As a child, Dr. Lo fled a refugee camp in war-torn Laos with his family and came to live in Wisconsin. Dr. Lo, with hard work and the benefit of two TRIO programs, graduated from UW-La Crosse with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and went on to earn a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine degree from Bastyr University in Seattle, Washington. He returned to Wisconsin to contribute to the La Crosse community through private practice at the La Crosse Natural Health Center, Habitat for Humanity Family Selection Committee, and as a member of the Equal Opportunity Commission for the city of La Crosse.

There is no limit to what TRIO participants can accomplish. Program graduates have become successful in all spheres of society and have gone on to enjoy careers as doctors, lawyers, astronauts, television reporters, actors, state politicians and Members of Congress, to list a few. Indeed, two of our colleagues in the House of Representatives, Representative HENRY BONILLA and Representative ALBERT R. WYNN are graduates of the TRIO Programs.

I have long supported TRIO and will continue to push for increased funding for these important programs. I am proud to celebrate National TRIO Day and call much deserved attention to these vital programs. I also encourage my colleagues to visit the TRIO Programs in their states and learn for themselves how successful these programs are for our Nation's students.●

#### THE CALENDAR

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, I have a series of unanimous consent requests to put in front of the Senate as we proceed to close down the Senate this evening.

#### COMMENDING THE PEOPLE OF IRAN

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 83 submitted by myself and Senator WELLSTONE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 83) commending the people of Iran for their commitment to the democratic process and positive political reform on the occasion of Iran's parliamentary elections.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, earlier today the Senate voted on H.R. 1883, the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000. That bill will shortly be voted on by the House and sent to the President. I hope he will sign it because it is an important signal that the United States will not tolerate the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering them. We will not tolerate trafficking in missiles and the technology with which to build them. I believe that is an important signal for us to send.

I also think it is important we recognize what took place this week in Iran. This threat occurred, but in the midst of this, 80 percent of the people in Iran turned out to vote. They are not interested in the entrenched policies of Ayatollah Khomeini and his harsh legacy. Reformers dominated in the polls. Despite the best efforts of the hardline clerical institutions to disqualify and intimidate popular candidates, the Iranian people had the courage of their convictions. They want economic liberalization, they want freedom of the press, and they want personal liberty.

We in the United States obviously share those convictions and are obviously heartened by what took place at the polls this week in Iran. It should be noted and applauded, and this resolution does just that.

We say to the Iranian people: Congratulations. Thank you. This is a good step in moving forward. At the same time, we want to say we will not tolerate weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering these weapons. We want to send those clear signals.

There is another thing which is going on in Iran. Earlier today, I had a press conference with several other people about three men—Sirus Zabihi-Moghaddam, Hedayat Kashefi-Najafabadi, and Manuchehr Khulusi—three Baha'is who are on death row in prison facing imminent execution for the simple reason of practicing their faith. That is it. They are on death row facing imminent death for daring to practice their faith.

This cannot be tolerated. There are nearly 300,000 Baha'is in Iran. It is the largest religious minority in the country. They have suffered continuous persecution for their peaceful beliefs. I remind the Iranian people who have voted for freedom this week that this is part of it. This is also something they have signed on to.

Nearly 50 years ago, the General Assembly of the United Nations—of which Iran is a member—adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since that time, this Universal Declaration has become the bedrock document for human rights. However, the Iranian Government continues to be an egregious violator.

I wish to read one portion of this document. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states:

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

This hour, I call on the Government of Iran—from whom the people of Iran, by their clear vote this week, are seeking change—to ensure the safety of these three individuals.

This hour, I call for the release of these individuals—Sirus Zabihi-Moghaddam, Hedayat Kashefi-Najafabadi, and Manuchehr Khulusi—whose only crime was a sincere expression of their faith, which is a universal fundamental right.

Most importantly, I call upon the Government of Iran to provide freedom of religion to its people—who are yearning for change, as witnessed by the vote this week—including their peaceful yet brutalized Baha'is community. I ask for their freedom to express their faith as they see fit.

Our resolution is in addition to the bill that passed earlier today. It congratulates the Iranian people and says: Let's take other steps forward. No weapons of mass destruction. But, also, let's recognize religious freedom, as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which the Iranian Government has signed on to.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution, S. Con. Res. 83, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Con. Res. 83) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. CON. RES. 83

Whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran held parliamentary elections on February 18, 2000;

Whereas more than 75 percent of the approximately 39,000,000 eligible voters cast ballots in the elections;

Whereas preliminary results indicate that reformers have won a parliamentary majority, freeing Iran's parliament, the Majlis, of hard-line domination for the first time since the 1979 Iranian revolution;

Whereas reformers won elections despite concerted efforts by hard-line Iranian clergy to ban reformist forces from the ballot; and

Whereas the elections show a clear preference by a majority of Iranian voters for democracy, rule of law, and improved relations with Western nations: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) commends the people of Iran for their commitment to the democratic process;

(2) congratulates reformist parliamentarians on their recent electoral victory;

(3) reaffirms the desire of the United States to see free, democratic political development, the restoration of the rule of law, and full civil and political rights for all Iranians; and

(4) calls on the Government of Iran to rejoin the community of nations and renounce terrorism, opposition to the Middle East

peace process, and the development and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction.

# DETENTION OF ANDREI BABITSKY BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN RUSSIA

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 261, submitted earlier by Senators HELMS, BIDEN, ROTH, LOTT, and DODD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 261) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the detention of Andrei Babitsky by the Government of the Russian Federation and freedom of the press in Russia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, during the past 5 months the Government of Russia has waged a brutal war against Chechnya. The Kremlin's indiscriminate use of force has left countless thousands of innocents dead and hundreds of thousands homeless on the icy plains and in the snow-covered mountains of the Caucasus.

We all have seen the photos of Grozny, a city subjected to a travesty not witnessed in Europe since the siege of Stalingrad and the leveling of Warsaw in World War II. Indeed, what has been done to Grozny surpasses even the havoc Milosevic wrought upon the towns and cities of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. It is difficult to believe, but it is true.

In a time when Western Governments have turned a blind eye to this conflict, the ability of journalists to report objectively on the horrors of this war becomes all the more important to the effort to bring an end to this violence and establish a just peace.

Russian President Vladimir Putin appears to recognize this only too well. As a consequence, freedom of the press, a cornerstone of democracy, has become another victim of his government and his war against Chechnya.

Mr. President, the Russian government is today systematically censoring the press and attempting to use it to disseminate misinformation about public events. Journalists in Russia who report on the war and other matters in a manner contradicting the Putin Government do so at great risk. They are subject to intimidation, harassment, detention, and even violence by Russian authorities.

In one recent case, Russian police attempted to arrest a journalist and send him off to a psychiatric hospital, a ghoulis effort reminiscent of Putin's not to distant career in the Soviet KGB.

Nowhere has this suppression of the free press become more blatant and

cruel than in the case of Andrei Babitsky, a ten year veteran journalist of our own Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe.

Babitsky courageously and objectively covered the 1994-1996 Russo-Chechen war as well as the current conflict. For his accounts of the atrocities committed by Russian military and the resilience of the Chechen resistance, he has paid an extremely high price.

In mid-January, he was seized in Chechnya by Russian forces and detained. That is the last heard from him directly.

The Russian Government's response to inquiries about Babitsky's health and whereabouts have been contradictory and dismissive.

After nearly three weeks of asserting that Babitsky had not been detained, that he was about to be freed—and, indeed, that he had been freed, a Kremlin spokesman summarily announced on February 3 that his government exchanged Babitsky for three Russian prisoners of war held by the Chechen resistance.

Chechen authorities deny that such an exchange ever took place. And, the Kremlin has not provided one iota of credible evidence backing its version of events. Today, the fate of Andrei Babitsky remains unknown. He is a father with a loving and courageous wife and two children. We must pray that Babitsky will return safely to his family.

Mr. President, it is with Andrei Babitsky in mind, I, along with Senator BIDEN, the Majority Leader, and Senator ROTH, send to the desk a resolution concerning the state of freedom of press in Russia. This resolution recounts the facts as we know them in the case of Andrei Babitsky, and it underscores that his detention and disappearance are not isolated incidents but part of the Russian government's broader and systematic repression of the press.

It expresses our belief that—and at that this point I shall read the concluding elements of the pending resolution:

(1) The detention of Andrei Babitsky by the Government of Russia and the misinformation it has issued concerning this matter constitute reprehensible treatment of a civilian in a conflict zone, in violation of the principles set forth in Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, and demonstrate the [Russian] Government's intolerance toward a free and open press;

(2) The conduct by the Government of Russia leaves it responsible for the safety of Andrei Babitsky;

(3) The Government of Russia should take steps to secure the safe return of RFE/RL reporter Andrei Babitsky to his family;

(4) The Government of Russia should provide a full accounting of Mr. Babitsky's detention and the charges he faced; and

(5) The Russian authorities should immediately halt its harassment of journalists, foreign and domestic, who cover the war in Chechnya and any other event in the Russian Federation and should fully adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

which declares in Article 19 that "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

No principle lies deeper in the heart of democracy than the right to free speech. And the embodiment of that principle is a free press. Not only is freedom of the press a cornerstone of democracy, it is a key catalyst of democratic reform. Russia will not become a democracy if the Kremlin continues to repress, intimidate, harass, and brutalize those journalists who do not share its point view. Our ability to help Russia evolve into a democracy cannot be effective if we ignore such systematic repression of the press.

I call upon my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Allow me to close on one point related to the disappearance of Andrei Babitsky, freedom of the press in Russia and the relationship between Washington and Moscow.

It has become public knowledge that some in these two capitals contemplate a summit meeting in the near future between President Clinton and President Vladimir Putin. If our government is serious about determining the facts surrounding Andrei Babitsky's fate, if our government is serious about protecting other journalists from such abuse, and if our government is serious about promoting democratic reform in Russia, the administration will promptly dismiss such proposed summits until Putin has provided a full and credible accounting of Babitsky's detention and his current whereabouts.

It is premature to consider summit meetings at a time when the Russian government remains contemptuously dismissive of Babitsky and our concerns about his safety, not to mention the international community's call for a just peace in Chechnya.

The administration has repeatedly stated that the Kremlin will isolate itself through its barbaric conduct in Chechnya. Now is the time for the administration to live up to its own words.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator HELMS, in supporting a resolution regarding Andrei Babitsky, a reporter for Radio Liberty, who has been missing in Russia since January.

Mr. Babitsky is a veteran reporter for Radio Liberty, the U.S.-funded radio broadcasting organization based in Prague. He has reported on Russia for over a decade, and reported on the Russo-Chechen war from 1994 to 1996 and over the past several months.

In mid-January, Mr. Babitsky disappeared in Chechnya. Since then, Russian officials have issued contradictory statements about Mr. Babitsky's whereabouts and well-being. On January 26, a Russian presidential spokesman stated that Babitsky "left Grozny and then disappeared," and that Russian officials had no knowledge of his