

In doing so, he has earned more than just the pride and admiration of a loving wife. He has earned the respect of a grateful nation and the enduring thanks of millions of individuals he will never meet, but whose lives are better and richer and more productive because of him.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. DOLE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, I rise this morning to discuss a bill I believe the Senate will be taking up later today or possibly tomorrow. But before I do, I cannot come to the floor this morning without commenting about the magnificent work and service that our service men and women are doing in Iraq, and also the service men and women who are supporting our folks in Iraq. What an absolutely tremendous job they are doing, and how proud all Americans are of the work they are doing.

We are having an opportunity in this war, unlike any previous war in American history, to see, sometimes firsthand, the tremendous work they are doing.

As I talk to people in Ohio, talk to my colleagues, and talk to family members and friends, everyone is so proud of what they are doing.

Our hearts go out to the families of those who have lost their lives. We pray for them. We pray for those who have been injured. We pray for those who are recovering. And we think about them. We think about them every day.

THE CLEAN DIAMOND ACT OF 2003

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, later today the Senate will take up a bill that the House has acted upon; that is, the Clean Diamond Act of 2003. There are many tragedies in this world, a lot of suffering. This bill deals with one of these problems. There are many atrocities that are occurring.

One area of the world where such atrocities are occurring on a daily basis is in Sierra Leone, Africa. For at least a decade, Sierra Leone, one of the world's poorest nations, has been embroiled in a civil war. Rebel groups—most notably, the Revolutionary United Front—RUF—have been fighting for years to overthrow the recognized government. In the process, violence has erupted as the rebels have fought to seize control of the country's profitable diamond fields which, in turn, helps finance their terrorist regime.

Once in control of a diamond field, the rebels confiscate the diamonds and then launder them onto the very legitimate market through other nearby nations, such as Liberia. We refer to these as "conflict" or "blood" diamonds. These gems are a very lucrative business for the rebel groups. In fact, over the past decade, the rebels have smuggled out of Africa, we estimate, approximately \$10 billion in these diamonds.

It is nearly impossible, of course, to distinguish the illegally gathered diamonds from legitimate or "clean" stones. And so, Members of the Senate, regrettably and unwittingly, the United States—as the world's biggest buyer of diamonds—has contributed to the violence. Our Nation accounted for more than half of the \$57.5 billion in the global retail diamond trade last year, and some estimates suggest that illegal diamonds from Africa account for as much as 15 percent of the overall diamond trade.

Since the start of the rebel's quest for control of Sierra Leone's diamond supply, half of the nation's population of 4.5 million have left their homes, and at least a half million have fled the country. But it is the children, as it usually is—it is the children—of Sierra Leone who are bearing the biggest brunt of the rebel insurgency. For over 8 years, the RUF has conscripted children—children often as young as 7 or 8 years old—to be soldiers in this make-shift army. They have ripped at least 12,000 children from their own families.

As a result of deliberate and systematic brutalization, child soldiers have become some of the most vicious—and effective—fighters within the rebel factions. The rebel army—child-soldiers included—has terrorized Sierra Leone's population—killing, abducting, raping, and hacking off the limbs of victims with their machetes. This chopping off of limbs is the RUF's trademark strategy. In Freetown, the surgeons are frantic. Scores of men, women, and children—their hands partly chopped off—have flooded the main hospital. Amputating as quickly as they can, doctors toss severed hands into a communal bucket.

The RUF frequently and forcibly injects the children with cocaine in preparation for battle. This is a picture of a little girl who, obviously, has had her arm amputated.

In many cases, the rebels force the child-soldiers at gunpoint to kill their own family members or neighbors and friends. Not only are these children traumatized by what they are forced to do, they also are afraid to be reunited with their own families because of the possibility of retribution.

Madam President and members of the Senate, I cannot understate nor can I fully describe the horrific abuses these children are suffering. The most vivid accounts come from the child-soldiers themselves. I would like to read a few of their stories—their own stories—taken from Amnesty International's

1998 report entitled: "Sierra Leone—A Year of Atrocities against Civilians." According to one child's recollection:

Civilians were rounded up, in groups or in lines, and then taken individually to a pounding block in the village where their hands, arms, or legs were cut with a machete. In some villages, after the civilians were rounded up, they were stripped naked. Men were then ordered to rape members of their own family. If they refused, their arms were cut off and the women were raped by rebel forces, often in front of their husbands . . . victims of these atrocities also reported women and children being rounded up and locked into houses which were then set [on fire].

A young man from Lunsar, describing a rebel attack, said this:

Ten people were captured by the rebels and they asked us to form a [line]. My brother was removed from the [line], and they killed him with a rifle, and they cut his head with a knife. After this, they killed his pregnant wife. There was an argument among the rebels about the sex of the baby she was carrying, so they decided to open her stomach to see the baby.

According to Komba, a teenager:

My legs were cut with blades and cocaine was rubbed in the wounds. Afterwards, I felt like a big person. I saw the other people like chickens and rats. I wanted to kill them.

Rape, sexual slavery, and other forms of sexual abuse of girls and women have been systematic, organized, and widespread. Many of those abducted have been forced to become the "wives" of combatants.

According to Isatu, an abducted teenage girl:

I did not want to go; I was forced to go. They killed a lot of women who refused to go with them.

She was forced to become the sexual partner of the combatant who captured her and is now the mother of their 3-month-old baby:

When they capture young girls, you belong to the soldier who captured you. I was "married" to him.

Look at how some of these children have depicted themselves, the violence and bloodshed in their own drawings. That is how they depict it. Children strike at the heart of what they see and, more importantly, what they feel.

We are losing these children, an entire generation of children, if the situation is not improved. These kids have no future. But as long as the rebel diamond trade remains unchallenged, nothing really will change at all. That is why. I have been working with Senator DURBIN, Senator FEINGOLD, Senator GREGG, and so many others in the Senate and the other body for over 2 years to pass legislation that would help stem this illegal trade in conflict diamonds. I thank Senator GRASSLEY for his good work. Together we have worked extensively with our House colleagues, including my good friend and former colleague from Ohio, former Congressman Tony Hall. We have also worked with a champion in this area, my good friend, FRANK WOLF from Virginia.

We have worked to develop much needed legislation to help remove the

rebel's market incentive because that is what you have to do is to get rid of the incentive. While we have not yet been successful in getting this legislation signed into law—not yet—I credit my colleagues' continued commitment to this often forgotten issue. I know our countless congressional hearings and meetings, letters, and legislative initiatives have encouraged the administration and the international community to keep this issue alive. I thank those in the administration who have kept the issue going and worked so very hard. We have kept the pressure on. We are beginning to see very positive results.

Just this past January, an international agreement called the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme was launched. Specifically, this is a voluntary international diamond certification system among over 50 participating countries, including all of the major diamond producing and trading countries. This is a positive step. I commend the tireless work of human rights advocates and the diamond industry for making this certification system a reality.

Because of their success, today we are faced with the urgent need of providing legislative measures to enable effective U.S. implementation of the certification scheme. We need to provide the administration with the authorization necessary to ensure U.S. compliance with this global regulatory framework. This is why last week I joined with my distinguished colleagues and my friends—Senator GRASSLEY, Senator DURBIN, Senator FEINGOLD, Senator BAUCUS, Senator BINGAMAN, Senator GREGG, and several additional cosponsors—to introduce the Clean Diamond Act, legislation that commits the United States to mandatory implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification. This legislation is similar to a measure passed just last night in the House of Representatives, H.R. 1584. I am optimistic we can pass this legislation in the Senate very shortly, possibly even as early as today.

The whole idea behind this is to commit the United States to a system of controls on the export and import of diamonds so that buyers can be certain their purchases are not fueling the rebel campaign.

I know there is not one person in this country who goes in and buys a diamond with the intention to fuel a rebel campaign. No one wants to do that. This is a way we can ensure buyers they are not doing that.

Specifically, our legislation would prohibit the import of any rough diamond that has not been controlled through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. Put simply, this means every diamond brought into the United States would require a certificate of origin and authenticity to indicate the rebel or terrorist group has not laundered it on to the legitimate market.

Additionally, the bill calls on the President to report annually to the U.S. Congress on the control system's effectiveness and also requires the General Accounting Office to report on the law's effectiveness within 2 years of enactment.

Finally, our bill emphasizes the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is an ongoing process and that our Government should continue to work with the international community to strengthen the effectiveness of this global regulatory framework. As the world's biggest diamond customer, biggest consumer, purchasing well over half of all the diamonds purchased in the world, our Nation has a moral responsibility to show continued leadership on this issue. Quite candidly, there are a lot of terrible, tragic things going on we don't have the power to change or fix or have much impact on at all, but today in the Senate we can have impact on this issue. We can make a difference. We have the power to help put an end to this indescribable suffering and violence caused by diamond-related conflicts. We have that power, and we must use it.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this much needed legislation. We have a moral obligation to help stop the violence, help stop the brutality, and help stop the needless killing and the maiming going on, to help stop the victimization of these children.

No other child should kill or be killed in diamond-related conflicts. I believe it is absolutely imperative that we pass the bill we have introduced and pass it quickly to help end these atrocities once and for all. It certainly is the humane thing to do. It is the right thing to do. It is the only thing to do.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, when I pick up the newspaper, turn on the radio, or watch television, almost all of the media's attention is, understandably, focused on the war in Iraq. As a result, some important issues in other parts of the world are being overlooked or unreported. I want to call attention to some good news that has received very little attention: Congress has made some much needed progress on the very important issue of conflict diamonds.

The role of diamonds in fueling brutal conflicts in Africa and funding terrorism is well documented, so I will not take much time recounting this history. Suffice it to say, that it is a critical problem and deserves serious attention and resources from Congress, the Bush Administration, and the international community.

It is also well known that the diamond industry, key nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and a number of governments came together to create an international regime aimed at stopping the trade in conflict diamonds, called the Kimberley Process. In January 2002, the process was launched and now the individual countries involved need to pass implementing legislation.

It is important that the Congress pass legislation before the next Kimberley Process Plenary Meeting on April 28, 2003, to ensure that the United States continues to play a leadership role on this issue.

However, the timing of the bill should not be the only factor. The legislation needs to reflect not just the wishes of the administration but also the views of a bipartisan group of Senators, including Senators DURBIN, DEWINE, FEINGOLD, GREGG, and BINGAMAN, who have been working on this issue for years. The bill must also incorporate input from a wide range of NGOs, from Oxfam to Catholic Relief Services, that have dealt first-hand with the devastating consequences of conflict diamonds.

S. 760, the Clean Diamonds Trade Act, does just that. I rise today to support this legislation. And assuming that a word in the section concerning the Kimberley Process Implementation Coordinating Committee is changed, I also support the House companion, H.R. 1584, which is virtually identical to S. 760.

I commend Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS for producing a solid, bipartisan bill to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), an international system designed to ensure that rough diamonds entering the United States are legally mined and traded.

When we began drafting this bill several months ago, the administration's proposed legislation was little more than hortatory. It was filled with permissive authorities that would have required the administration to do virtually nothing. It essentially said: "Thanks, but we'll take care of the problem by ourselves."

Through a consultative, bipartisan process, Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS worked with interested Senators, the NGO community, and the diamond industry to shape the administration's proposal into meaningful legislation that contains a number of important provisions.

For example, the bill contains a prohibition of the importation of rough diamonds; requires Government oversight of the U.S. Kimberley Process Authority—the industry body responsible for issuing certificates for U.S. rough diamond exports; and includes reporting requirements that can be used to gauge the effectiveness of the system and monitor attempts to circumvent it. In the administration's original proposal, these provisions either did not exist or were seriously watered-down.

While S. 760 is a good bill and is one that I am pleased to cosponsor, there is room for improvement.

There is nothing in this legislation that deals with polished stones. As a result, if an exporter were to make just one "cut" to a diamond it would be exempt from KPCS and the implementing legislation. I also think improvements can be made to the criminal penalties

language, the provision on statistics collection, and a handful of other sections.

But we all know that no bill is perfect and no Senator gets everything he or she wants in a broad, bipartisan bill. I mention these shortcomings, not to criticize the efforts of the authors of the bill, but rather for two important reasons.

First, the shortcomings in the S. 760, as well as the KPCS itself, highlight the fact that Kimberley is an ongoing process and that additional regulations, legislation, and other measures will be necessary in the future. I am very pleased that Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS have included a sense of Congress in S. 760 that says just that.

Second, because the legislation gives the administration a good deal of flexibility, it is imperative that the State Department, Treasury Department, and other agencies follow through and implement the KPCS in an effective and timely manner. I can assure you that those of us who are co-sponsors of this legislation will be working to ensure this happens.

As I have said with countless other pieces of legislation, you can have the best bill in the world, but it is not worth a whole lot if Congress and the administration do not put the resources behind it.

I applaud the authors of the bill for including a Section in the bill that authorizes the President to provide technical assistance to developing nations seeking to implement the KPCS. But, it is up to the Appropriations Committee to make sure this initiative is funded.

As ranking member of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I included a provision in the fiscal year 2003 bill that appropriated \$2 million for this purpose. However, I have been informed that it is unclear if the State Department plans on utilizing these funds for their intended purpose, and that the Department might transfer it to other programs.

This would be a big mistake. In order to effectively implement Kimberley, extremely poor nations, where diamonds are mined, will have to set up viable export-control and law enforcement systems. Many of these nations simply do not have enough resources to do this.

Because of the links between conflict diamonds and terrorism, as well as human rights and humanitarian concerns, it is important that the United States provide technical assistance in order to have the most effective system possible. If providing a small amount of funding helps strengthen the KPCS, we should do it.

Some in the administration might ask how one would go about implementing such a program.

Those who ask those questions need to look no further than two programs that the U.S. Government has implemented in the past.

The United States Agency for International Development supported a suc-

cessful program in Sierra Leone to improve controls associated with the mining and export of diamonds. In addition, the United States provides technical assistance to nations to implement the World Trade Organization agreement. I am confident that these two programs can provide a model for the use of these funds.

Americans buy 65 to 70 percent of the world's diamonds, including rough diamonds, polished stones and jewelry containing diamonds. It is up to the United States to provide leadership on this very important issue. Without us, the world will not make the kind of progress it needs to on this and other human rights related matters.

This should not be hard for us to do. It is in our security interests. It is in our humanitarian interests. It is in our economic interests.

With the passage of the Clean Diamonds Trade Act, Congress will take an important step forward. There is much more work that needs to be done, but I am confident that it can be done.

In closing, I would like to thank some of those involved with this effort, including Everett Eissenstat and Carrie Clark of Senator GRASSLEY's staff, Shara Aranoff of Senator BAUCUS' staff, Randy Soderquist of Senator BINGAMAN's staff, Laura Parker of Senator DEWINE's staff, and last but certainly not least Cara Thanassi of Oxfam America. Without the help of these individuals, this bill would not have made it to first base. I thank them for their hard work.

EMERALD ASH BORER

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, over the past 450 years, more than 6,500 non-indigenous invasive species have been introduced into the United States and have become established, self-sustaining populations. These species—from microorganisms to mollusks, from pathogens to plants, from insects to fish—typically encounter few, if any, natural enemies in their new environments, and as a result they can wreak havoc on native species. Invasive species threaten to biological diversity. Some experts consider invasive species and the ecological damage they cause to be a greater environmental threat worldwide than chemical pollutants. Estimates of the annual economic damage caused nationwide by these species go as high as \$137 billion.

In my home State of Michigan, there is a disaster unfolding which could dramatically increase this cost. For the past few years, scientists have been concerned with the unusually high number of dead and dying Ash trees in the metro-Detroit area. Late last summer, scientists determined that the problem is caused by a beetle which came into the country from Asia: the Emerald Ash Borer. This beetle is indigenous to Asia and has been found in China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Mongolia and Eastern Russia.

Like other invasive species, the Emerald Ash Borer is destroying native species. While scientists believe that the insect came into the country as little as five years ago, it has already left millions of trees in the Detroit area dead or dying. Since there is no economically feasible manner to treat trees, there is concern that all of the Ash trees in the Detroit area will be dead within 5 years.

In order to stop the spread of the Ash Borer, last summer the Michigan Department of Agriculture imposed a quarantine to stop Ash trees, logs and firewood as well as Ash tree nursery stock from being removed from Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw or Livingston counties in Southeastern Michigan. Later in the fall, Monroe country was added. The Michigan Department of Agriculture is currently working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the creation of a program to potentially eradicate the Emerald Ash Borer, yet funds from USDA, for a comprehensive effort, have yet to be provided.

The presence of this beetle has been allegedly reported in other parts of Michigan, and the beetle has recently been positively identified in Toledo, Ohio and Windsor, Ontario. Ohio, Indiana and the Province of Ontario, Canada, are very concerned about the spread of this pest, and the web-sites of their respective Departments of Agriculture have contained warnings about the beetle. Now, with the presence of the beetle in Toledo and Windsor, those fears have increased.

One proposal for stopping the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer would be to create a "fire break" by removing trees in a ring around the affected area. Since scientists believe that this beetle can only fly three miles, such an approach, which is already underway in the area surrounding Windsor, Canada, could be successful. However, doing so would be expensive and money is desperately needed not only for beetle eradication and tree removal but also for research.

While the effects of the Ash Borer on Southeast Michigan have already been devastating, the potential results of the beetle's spreading could be catastrophic. As one of the most popular urban trees, Ash trees are found across much of the country. This invasive pest has the potential to be as destructive as the historic Dutch Elm Disease. The sad irony is that Ash trees were planted in place of many of the Elm trees that our State and Nation lost years ago. Should the Ash Borer spread continue, the Forest Service estimates that the potential impact could affect "up to 2 percent of total leaf area and could impose a value loss between \$20-60 billion." This number is arrived at without including the cost of replanting deforested areas.

This devastation has already crossed state borders and will cross more unless dealt with. State and local governments cannot be expected to deal with