

weeks more dissidents reportedly have been receiving long sentences. Ms. Suu Kyi's party is in a tough spot: It can boycott the convention as a sham and be accused by the regime of being noncooperative, or it can legitimize a sham. Either way, the Yangon generals again seem to be stringing along the world.

All this speaks to the need for the U.S. Senate to act quickly to renew import sanctions placed on Myanmar goods after Ms. Suu Kyi was rearrested last year. And this time, sanctions must be followed by a U.S. diplomatic campaign—with the generals, their Southeast Asian apologists and the U.N. Security Council—that will be more strongly focused on forcing the junta to begin sharing power.

Ms. Suu Kyi has deservedly gained world renown as a symbol of the Burmese quest for freedom, but she also is just one of 50 million people who remain under this regime's lock and key.

[From the Nation]

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION ON BURMA

(By Tashika Elbegdorj)

Nobody should be clinking champagne glasses over the recent announcement that Burma's National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Aung San Suu Kyi, has tentatively accepted an invitation to attend the national convention being organized by the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). If this is to be a credible process, the regime must first meet a number of reasonable demands by the NLD—something the ruling junta has never done in the past. Now is the time to step up pressure on Rangoon to ensure the NLD's demands are met and to prevent another attempt by the SPDC to place a veneer of democracy over their brutal rule.

Beginning a so-called process of national reconciliation and charting a way out of Burma's political impasse without the full participation of Suu Kyi and the NLD (as a party and not as individuals) is destined to fail. The legitimacy of the NLD cannot be denied. The Burmese people overwhelmingly elected NLD candidates in 1990 to represent them in parliamentary elections the SPDC refuses to recognize.

Few regimes in the world are as repugnant as the SPDC led by Senior General Than Shwe. Human rights reports and documentation by international organizations such as the United Nations have catalogued a long series of horrors the ruling regime inflicts on its people. For example, the SPDC demands forced labor from its citizens, uses rape as a weapon of fear and intimidation against ethnic groups, fills its jails with political prisoners and torture and summary executions are common. In one of the greatest crimes against our youth, Human Rights Watch reports that nearly 70,000 child soldiers, some as young as 11, have been dragooned into the Burma army.

That the regime attempts to justify its behavior by talking about "managed democracy" and the "Asian way to democracy" is an outrage. The fact that Burma's regional neighbors look the other way while making pretenses about "internal affairs" is a stain on all Asians—and this must change.

The SPDC's national convention continues a process begun in 1995 to guarantee a future constitution that cements the military's role in power. Statements by senior SPDC officials that this convention will pick up where the last one left off demonstrates a striking lack of sincerity and strongly indicates that this exercise has nothing to do with democracy and everything to do with dictatorship.

The Burmese people are not the only victims of the regime. Burma's neighbors also

suffer. In Thailand, the junta's actions have forced tens of thousands of refugees across the Thai-Burma border. Methamphetamine, or *ya ba* as it is known locally, wash into Thailand from Burma, saddling Thai social services with skyrocketing addiction rates and increased crime. China is battling an HIV-AIDS epidemic that has its roots in Burma's opium smuggling. Regionally, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), who have long provided Burma's generals with political cover, are forced to pick up the tab for the regime's behavior. Meetings with the U.S. and EU officials that should be focused on enhancing economic, security and social ties are instead devoted to explaining the outrageous actions of a brutal regime. This tension is a drag on the region.

It is time for Asian governments to realize that it is time to get tough with Burma's thugs. After expending considerable political capital and prestige, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra received a slap in the face when the junta refused to participate in a second meeting of the Bangkok Process, a mechanism he put in place to allow the regime to brief the international community on its road map to democracy and national convention.

Thaksin has bent over backwards to curry favor with Burma's generals by cracking down on Burmese refugees and democracy activists promoting non-violence in their opposition to the SPDC. Thaksin should communicate strongly to the regime that they will not find solace or cover with his government. Allowing Burmese democracy activists to meet and organize in Thailand would serve to demonstrate his commitment to freedom in Thailand as well as sending a strong signal to the regime that their actions are unacceptable and their support waning. Asean could take the step of suspending Burma's membership in the regional grouping putting the SPDC on notice they are unwilling to foot the rising political and financial bill for the regime's acts of violence and abuse.

A peaceful Burma holds the promise of returning refugees, addressing narcotics smuggling, and investing in a social infrastructure that can unleash the talents and potential of the people. This will create a huge new economic market for Asean and be a catalyst for further development in an environment of peace and stability. None of this will exist under the SPDC.

It is testimony to the bravery of the Burmese people that despite the regime's oppression and terror they are unable to subdue the country's democracy movement. The strength of the movement lies in its legitimacy and the demand by the country for governance derived from the will of the people. It is long past time for Asian governments to hear their call and take the actions necessary for a peaceful transition of power that can begin to heal this torn land.

MURDER OF NICHOLAS BERG

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I join my colleagues and the American people in expressing outrage at the vicious murder of American citizen Nicholas Berg in Iraq. I extend my sincere sympathy to Mr. Berg's family and friends, who have had to confront a terrible loss in the context of a barbaric public display.

No one should be misled by the claims of the terrorists responsible for this atrocity. They purport to be retaliating for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by American soldiers. But this is

a lie. These people seek to kill us and kill our children because that is at the core of their agenda, because they derive power from inspiring fear and horror. They do not need a pretext for their brutality.

We express our disgust at the scandalous treatment of Iraqi prisoners because our country stands for basic principles, for the rule of law, for the dignity of the individual. We hold ourselves to high standards, and generations of Americans have shed blood to protect those standards and uphold our principles. We do not call for an investigation of these prisoner abuses in the hopes of placating terrorists. We call for an investigation and for full accountability because that is the right thing to do.

And in the broader fight against terrorism, we speak, wisely, of the need to win hearts and minds in the Arab and Muslim worlds, where millions of good and decent people question American intentions and actions. We insist, quite rightly, that the basic norms and standards of conduct embodied in the Geneva Convention not be undermined, because those same Conventions protect our own troops when they are in harm's way. But our efforts are not aimed to influence the behavior of terrorists. No one has any illusions about the nature of these people. We will not change their minds, or win their hearts, or convince them to uphold basic standards in their conduct. One has only to recall the horror of September 11, or consider the murder of Nicholas Berg, to be certain about that.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On April 6, 2000, in Ashland, OR, Michael Susee was charged with intimidation and assault for allegedly attacking three gay men while yelling anti-gay remarks.

Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. By passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY AND NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to those from my home State who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. I sincerely believe we must never forget those who have given their lives to protect us all.

Each and every day, law enforcement officers risk themselves to protect the rights and freedoms we enjoy as citizens of this great country. Their commitment and sacrifice make our streets and homes safer, our communities stronger, and keep our families secure.

On October 1, 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726, proclaiming May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week of each year during which May 15 occurs as National Police Week. The week is a time to honor Federal, State and municipal officers who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty. This law was amended by the 103rd Congress as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act in 1994 to order the United States flag on all government buildings displayed at half-staff on May 15.

Since the turn of the last century, more than 60 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty in New Mexico ten since 1996. I would like to bring special attention to two events in particular, while realizing that all are nonetheless significant. One occurred long ago, and the second just this past year.

The first took place the year prior to my election to this body. On the night of November 8, 1971, New Mexico State Police Officer Robert Rosenbloom was gunned down after he stopped a vehicle on Interstate 40 west of Albuquerque. Three murder suspects—Charles Hill, Ralph Lawrence Goodwin, and Michael Robert Finney—fled to Albuquerque. On November 27, they forced an Albuquerque tow truck operator at gunpoint to drive them to the runway of Albuquerque International Airport. Once there, the hijackers seized control of a commercial jet and forced the pilot to fly to Havana, Cuba.

Under the protection of Fidel Castro, they have avoided American justice. It has been reported that one suspect died in Cuba; however, there are still outstanding warrants for all three suspects. These men have been given asylum in Cuba and we continue to seek the extradition of these men for trial. Today, I renew my call for Cuba and Fidel Castro to return these fugitives. This shall also serve notice that those of us from New Mexico have not forgotten, and we will forever hold out desire for due justice.

I would also like to remember Patrick K. Hardesty. Patrick grew up in Artesia, NM, where he established himself as a talented musician and Eagle Scout. In fact, he was one of my military academy nominees years ago. While making a career in the U.S. Marine Corps and Reserve, Patrick earned a college degree and joined the Tucson, AZ police force after retiring from the military. On May 26, 2003, about this time last year, he was brutally shot and killed while investigating a minor hit-and-run in midtown Tucson.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the unselfish dedication of Robert Rosenbloom and Patrick Hardesty, and

all the brave men and women who have devoted their lives to public protection and service.

We remember their dedication to protect and serve, and the tragic price they paid for that devotion. We also remember the families of these two officers and the sacrifices they have incurred because of a deep-seated commitment to duty and public service. All of us from New Mexico owe a debt of gratitude to each and every officer who has lost their lives in the line of duty.

We would do well to remember to express our gratitude to the officers who continue to serve us day to day. The men and women of law enforcement, through their service, are most worthy of our thanks and highest respect. To all who have paid the ultimate price and to those who continue to serve, may we forever be grateful and never take for granted what you do. You have my utmost admiration.

IN COMMEMORATION OF POLICE WEEK

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the 145 law enforcement officers who gave their lives in service to their communities last year. They are true heroes, and their families are owed our gratitude.

This is National Police Week. Tonight, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund will host the 16th Annual Candlelight Vigil on the grounds of the National Law Enforcement Memorial here in Washington. Three hundred and sixty-two names will be added to the memorial tonight—145 officers who were killed in 2003, and 217 who were lost in prior years. Saturday, the Fraternal Order of Police will host the National Peace Officers' Memorial Day Service on the West Front of the Capitol. Together, these two events, along with other events throughout the city this week, should make us all pause and give thanks to police officers throughout the Nation who protect our communities against crime and terrorism.

We lost fewer officers in the line of duty last year than we have in years past, and the total is well below the 230 officers killed in 2001, when we lost 72 officers on September 11 alone. But the numbers of lost officers is still far too high. On average, one out of every 9 officers is assaulted per year, one out of every 25 is injured, and one out of every 4,400 is killed in the line of duty annually. Police risk their own lives in our service each and every day, and we should keep these sobering statistics in mind every week, not just during police week.

Law enforcement is an inherently dangerous undertaking, and police officers have become our front lines in the war on terror. I fear we are underfunding their efforts as we reorient Federal assistance to local law enforcement post 9/11, but that is a conversation for another day. Today, and this entire week, we give police officers our

thanks, we remember those that paid the ultimate price while serving our communities, and we give comfort to the loved ones they have left behind.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise to recognize nine extraordinary individuals from my home State of Wisconsin. Each of them dedicated, and ultimately sacrificed, their lives to protect their fellow citizens.

On Thursday, May 13, 2004, a candlelight vigil will be held at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial to add 362 more names to the memorial. Each day, law enforcement officers risk life and limb to serve the public. On average, 167 officers are killed each year in the line of duty. This memorial is a lasting tribute to these courageous individuals.

Nine of the names being added today belong to law enforcement officers who served throughout the State of Wisconsin. For the sacrifices they have made on our behalf, the citizens of Wisconsin owe these brave individuals and their families a debt that can never be repaid. I would like to honor them by placing their names in the RECORD, along with the date of their untimely passing.

They are: Harry O. Harris of St. Croix County—6/18/1904; Richard Meyer of Winnebago County—11/13/2003; Roland Silas Payne of Wisconsin Rapids—11/10/1939; Roy Sampson of La Crosse County—9/24/1952; Matt Schumacher of the Wisconsin Department of the Treasury—9/22/1934; Michael Eron Shannon of Adams County—3/7/2003; Charles Snover of Waukesha County—7/28/1935; Curtis Owen Starr of Viroqua—3/13/1953; and Bruce Allen Williams of Green Lake County—10/19/2003.

Every day, public safety officers around the country put themselves in harm's way to make our communities safer. It is important that we honor their dedication and commitment to making our country and our communities a better place in which to live. That is particularly true of those who have lost their lives in the line of duty, but it is also true of those who take that risk day after day. For their commitment and dedication to their profession, we are forever in their debt.

TO AUTHORIZE SEPARATE MEDALS FOR THE IRAQ AND AFGHAN MILITARY CAMPAIGNS

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the legislation we are seeking an agreement to consider that would honor the service of our men and women in uniform who are defending our freedom honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan. This legislation would award separate campaign medals to members of the Armed Forces who participate in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The bill passed the House of Representatives unanimously in March and was reported by the Senate Armed Services Committee earlier this week.