

that Iran has manufactured and stockpiled blister, blood, and choking chemical agents, and weaponized some of these agents into artillery shells, mortars, rockets and aerial bombs in contravention to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In July, Iran announced that it succeeded in developing solid fuel technology for ballistic missiles, which can be launched with almost no warning, far more quickly and reliably and with greater accuracy than those with liquid fuel.

In August, Iran resumed converting uranium to gaseous state. This is a step that precedes enrichment which then can produce nuclear material usable both as fuel in nuclear reactors and as material for an atomic bomb.

Mr. Speaker, Iran calls upon the Western countries to trust Iranian intentions, but how could we possibly do that?

Iran's claim is that its nuclear program is intended for peaceful purposes only—to produce electricity. That claim is simply not credible. Iran has the world's second largest proven reserves of natural gas, along with huge crude oil reserves. It is neither cost effective nor expedient to develop nuclear capabilities for Iran's energy needs.

The world must not be so naive in this grave situation—we must look at Iran's past and present actions. They are the most reliable indications of its true intent.

For years—since the early 1990's, Iran has persistently maintained the need for nuclear weapon development. Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who some hail as a “moderate”, has repeatedly stated that nuclear development was a “necessity.” Rafsanjani has also stated that “If a day comes when the world of Islam is duly equipped with the arms Israel has in possession, the strategy of colonialism would face a stalemate because application of an atomic bomb would not leave any thing in Israel but the same thing would just produce damages in the Muslim world.” What frightening words.

Iran is in violation of numerous treaties—and continues its patterns of deceit. Iran is trying to create a Euro dominated exchange of oil, and has a strategic economic relationship with China.

Iran suppresses its people with the harshest and most brutal kind of treatment. Just last Tuesday, September 6th, prosecutors' offices in provincial centers announced that “Women who violate Iran's strict Islamic dress code will be flogged immediately”—they will appear before an Islamic judge immediately after arrest to receive a sentence, which is usually 100 lashes in public.

Its newly elected President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad pledged that he will continue to support Hezbollah's struggle against the “enemies of Islam.” He has even more recently vowed to reinforce Hezbollah.

And, Mr. Speaker, the spiritual advisor to and supporter of President Ahmadinejad, Ayatollah Misbah Yazdi, has issued a call in an Iranian newspaper for the public to join the swelling ranks of Iran's homegrown suicide bombers, stating that “Suicide operations are the peak of the nation, and the height of its bravery.” And President Ahmadinejad himself has stated that “Is there art that is more beautiful, more divine, and more eternal than the art of martyrdom?” The Iranian President has said that his ambition was to spread his government's Islamist ideology to the world.

Mr. Speaker, the possibility of the regime in Iran having indigenous nuclear capability is a recipe for destruction that is unthinkable. And we absolutely must not make the cataclysmic error of believing that those now ruling in Iran have only peaceful purposes in developing nuclear capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Iran is attempting to allay international concerns, pledging that its nuclear program will be subject to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Yet this assurance is completely unassuring when put in the context of 18 years of unremitting deception, and the IAEA's ineffectiveness. Iran has violated its obligations and forfeited its credibility. We must not allow this defiant threat to the world to pass by unnoticed. The IAEA should refer Iran to the Security Council. The world cannot allow the current ruling regime of Iran to obtain and develop indigenous nuclear capability.

It goes unnoticed, Mr. Speaker, that it is the Iranian people who are suffering the most as a result of this radical clerical regime. It seems all too possible that Iran wishes to develop nuclear capability to stifle international support for an Iranian popular revolt as much, and possibly more so, than to counter an Israeli nuclear “threat”. The people of Iran should know that they have this nation's support—unequivocal support to take the stand that they have yearned for, for so many years. This support should be stated openly, clearly, and repeatedly.

Regardless of what the IAEA determines—Security Council or not, United States' policy should be clear, articulated support for the freedom-loving people of Iran to establish a restored Iran, an Iran that contributes to its people and the world, as it classically has done.

What is required, Mr. Speaker, as Dr. Assad Homayoun the President of the Azadegan Foundation has articulated, is “legitimization through recognition” and the people of Iran will rightfully have the resolve and recourse to establish a government—by the people and for the people. That is a day we should all look forward to, with gratitude to the good people of Iran.

HATE CRIMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, this body passed the gentleman from Michigan's (Mr. CONYERS) hate crime bill with very little notice. Some here were heard to say, oh, well, they will just take it out in conference. However, there is a decent chance that will not happen.

It is true that people who act out of hate can and do cause devastation and severe hurt. There is no question about that. Those who cause such harm deserve and should be punished severely. As a former judge, I have sentenced and severely punished people acting out of hate, including signing legal orders that the perpetrators should be put to death.

Ironically, the cases often cited as a basis for creating hate crime laws usually include the horrible dragging

death of the African American in Texas or the poor young man in Texas who was killed for being a homosexual. The main perpetrators in those cases got the death penalty that I believe they deserved. Those were cases in which no hate crime law would have made any difference whatsoever; yet they are constantly cited as a reason for it.

In the dragging death case, I personally might support punishment by allowing the victim's despondent family to choose the rope or chain and the terrain over which to drag the heartless defendant to inflict the death penalty. But the hate crime laws do not offer a more painful form of capital punishment. The one yesterday certainly does not, so it would have had absolutely no effect on the very cases its proponents often herald as poster examples.

What was done yesterday created a vague, ambiguous Federal offense which sends a message that random, senseless acts of violence are far more preferable in our society than such acts with a motive. Never mind that sociopaths or antisocial personalities who commit random, senseless acts of violence are unlikely to be rehabilitated. They will not get punished under this new law passed out of this House yesterday.

This new hate crimes bill that passed yesterday, this body said to the world that “sexual orientation” and not just “gender,” which should be respected, but “gender identity,” whatever that is, are in the same category as those unfortunate individuals who have suffered because of the color of their skin or their religious preference.

Have the Members ever stopped to think about the words “sexual orientation”? Regardless of what definition they may give those words, when we pass laws, the words used create an exceptional chance that at some point down the road someone is going to say the words mean exactly what they say. In the case of “sexual orientation,” someday someone can look at those words and say they have the very meaning they state: That includes those who are sexually oriented towards animals, those who are sexually oriented towards corpses, those who are sexually oriented towards children. That is abominable. But someday those words could be cited by some appellate court as having their very plain meaning, not just the meaning that is socially or culturally accepted at the time they were passed.

There is another aspect that is not discussed or debated but is coming some day through this new law. It is true that the law addresses crimes of violence or attempted crimes of violence. However, under Article 18 U.S. Code 2(a) of the Federal Criminal Code, “whoever aids, abets, counsels, commands, induces, or procures” a crime's commission is punishable just as if he is the principal.

Do the Members understand what that means? Let me ask my colleagues if a Christian, Jewish, or Muslim religious leader teaches and preaches that

homosexuality is wrong or is a sin and someone in the leader's flock commits a crime against a person who chooses to practice such acts, has the religious leader counseled or induced such an act through his or her teaching? Someday someone will say so, and ministers will be arrested for their preaching. They will be said to have incited such conduct through hateful teaching. As a matter of fact, some people already blame religious leaders for acts of violence in such cases, and I do not defend any minister who encourages such conduct. That should be punished.

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They are wrong. But having harshly sentenced people who have committed crimes of hate, and also those who have committed crimes at random, cold-blooded, heartless thugs, I can tell my colleagues that the victims and their loved ones in all of these cases are all traumatized and distraught and deserving of sympathy and compassion.

So what is the message our great hate crime legislation sends? Apparently, through hate crime legislation, we are simply saying to the world, if you are really going to hurt me, please, please do not hate me. Instead, make it a random, cold-blooded, senseless act of violence. That is what we prefer in this country, according to this bill.

VICTIMS OF SEXUAL PREDATORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SODREL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, this past week, we have been reaping the destruction of a hurricane that brought the wind and rain and flooding of a natural and national disaster. But we have been for years reaping the greater destruction of a hurricane that continues to bring the wind, rain, and floods of the effects of child predators on America. We are talking about the murder of America's children by those child predators who live among us.

The children I am referring to tonight have all been kidnapped, murdered, some sexually assaulted, and some are still missing. It is because of them, Mr. Speaker, we passed the Child Safety Act yesterday.

Tonight, I will read just a few names of those children, the roll call of the dead: Cary Ann Medlin, 8, Tennessee; Nicole Parker, 8; California; Chris Byers, 8, Tennessee; Sherrice Iverson, 7, Nevada; Amanda Brown, 7, Florida; Christina Long, 13, Connecticut; Michelle Vick, 14, Washington; Maryann Measles, 13, Connecticut; Amber Hagerman, 9, Texas; Adam Walsh, 6, Florida; JonBenet Ramsey, 6, Colorado; Danielle Van Dam, 7, California; February the 1st, 2002.

This, Mr. Speaker, is a photograph of Danielle Van Dam. She was 7 when she was abducted and murdered in Cali-

fornia on February 1, 2002. She grew up in Sabre Springs, California. She loved coloring, playing with dolls, and writing and drawing in her journal. Danielle was a piano player and active in her Girl Scout troop. Her friends' parents described her as strong-headed, but very obedient. She loved sleepovers with her friends. Her father, Damon Van Dam, described Danielle as a caring, studious child who adored her family.

Danielle Van Dam was last seen alive when her father tucked her into bed on February 1, 2002. Danielle's parents reported her missing the next morning after her mother went to wake her up; she was not there.

Almost a month later, Danielle's decomposed, brutalized body was found. Searchers found her on February 27 in a lot full of trash 25 miles from San Diego, California. David Westerfield was the only neighbor that was not home the morning Danielle Van Dam was discovered missing. Investigators recovered child pornography from his home. His home was two doors from the Van Dam family. This child predator lived in the neighborhood. The motive for her abduction was sexual.

Authorities also said they found traces of Danielle's blood in Westerfield's motorhome and was on an article of his clothing. He was charged with murder, kidnapping, and possession of child pornography. Two days before Danielle disappeared, she had sold Girl Scout cookies to Westerfield. He was sentenced to death, and he is currently in San Quentin on death row, where he ought to be.

There are more, Mr. Speaker. Christopher Meyer, 10, Illinois; Mary Mount, 10, Connecticut; Jeannie Singleton, 8, Michigan; Kenny Dawson, 11, Virginia; Jackson Carr, 6, Texas; Troy Ward, 6, Utah; Brittany Lochlear, 5, North Carolina; Bradley Lions, 6, Washington; Brianna Jackson, 5 months, Alabama; Tommy Gibson, 2, Oregon; Rosy Tapia, 6, Utah; Rosie Gordon, 10, Virginia; Richard Stetson, 11, Maine; Jeralee Underwood, 11, Idaho; Samantha Runnion, 5, California, July 2002.

Samantha, like all of these others, Mr. Speaker, was a real person. She was a real child that lived in America. She was a beautiful and bright and joyful little girl. It is said she loved to read and write stories, paint, draw, play with guitar, sing, and dance. Most of all, she loved to play games with her family and friends. She liked Peter Pan and Hercules. She approached each day as a new adventure, eager to learn and play. She looked forward to growing up, being a teacher and a mommy.

Samantha was playing a board game with her 5-year-old friend when a man drove up. The two children were seated on a short wall about 150 feet from Samantha's home. The man got out of his car next to the girls and asked them to help him find his dog. Samantha and the man spoke to each other for a minute, but then he grabbed

her and drove off in his car. She was last seen, Mr. Speaker, screaming and kicking, saying, "Tell my grandma, tell my grandma." She was saying this to her 5-year-old friend. This 5-year-old ran to the house and was able to give a good description of the man and his car.

She was found a day later. Alejandro Avila kidnapped, sexually molested, and brutally murdered Samantha Runnion. He left her body on the side of a road 50 miles north of her home. A day later, he was arrested charged with kidnapping, sexual assault, and murder.

Just one year before he kidnapped Samantha, Avila was accused of molesting two other young girls. This past July he was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder, kidnapping, and sexual assault of this little girl, Samantha Runnion. He is awaiting execution and, hopefully, justice will not be delayed or prolonged.

There are others, Mr. Speaker. Shelby Barrackman, 3, Texas; Jamaree Coleman, 2 months, Georgia; Destiny Marie Flores, 4, Texas; Cecil Turner, 2, California; Jared Kitchen, 1, Michigan; Kendrick Broadway, 5, Missouri; Amy Sue Seitz, 2, California; LaTonya Wilson, 7, Georgia; Jennifer Noon, 5, Connecticut; John Short, 3, New York; Richard Short, 7, New York; Timothy Wiltsey, 5, New Jersey; Summer Rogers, 5, Oregon; Deborah Palmer, 8, Washington; Carlie Brucia, 11, Florida; February 1, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, Carlie, a little girl from Florida of the age of 11, disappeared February 1, 2004. Her grandmother described her as blond and bubbly, affectionate, a great hugger. When she was in New York, she loved to go to the movies with her dad, go shopping, and go out for ice cream. Her favorite ice cream was mint chocolate chip. Her grandmother said, I always had that in the house when she visited me. When she was at our house, she would shoot baskets in the driveway with her Aunt Ginny, play softball in the back yard with her Aunt Catelyn and the rest of the family.

She liked music. She was especially fond of Jennifer Lopez and knew all the words of all the songs that Jennifer Lopez sang. Carlie liked to help her dad at home, especially when the family was over for dinner. She pitched right in and helped with the serving and cleaning up. Here grandmother says, I can just picture her now, loading the dishwasher. She was a very good student, voted most popular, and a math whiz at McIntosh Middle School.

Carlie disappeared February 1, 2004, while walking home from a friend's slumber party in Sarasota, Florida. A surveillance camera behind a car wash taped Carlie's abduction. The sixth grader may have walked through the car wash's parking lot as a shortcut to her home in her neighborhood. Carlie's remains were found 5 days later, just a few miles from where the car wash was. The defendant: Joseph Smith. The