

their back. Their families are at risk because the terrorists see it as a risk to their way of life. Those who take up arms against the terrorists in Iraq are literally changing the course of history.

To those men and women who have served in the American military, those who have lost life and limb, I hope you take pride in what is happening today. To the families of the loved ones who have been lost, those who have been injured, and those who are still serving, because of your sacrifice and commitment, your willingness to leave your comfort zones, to leave your family and friends, Guard members and Reservists leaving their businesses and loved ones behind, you have changed the course of Middle East history.

At the end of the day, we can't kill enough terrorists to win. Terrorism is about hijacking of a great religion. There is no place in the terrorist world for a different faith, people of moderation in the Islamic community, and there is no role for a woman. For that to change, it is going to have to be deeper than force of arms. It is going to have to be a transformation of a culture.

The culture of the rule of the gun versus the rule of law is happening before our eyes. What is going on today in Iraq is a sea change in the Middle East. It is about time a dictator in that region answers for his crimes. It is about time people in that region be allowed to live their lives in a normal fashion and raise their kids in peace.

That day is still far away, but we are closer than we have ever been. So to those men and women serving in our American military and those who have suffered, congratulations and God bless. Because of your sacrifice and those sacrifices of our coalition partners and the Iraqi people, there has been a sea change in the Middle East and you deserve all the credit.

I hope the American people will be patient to see this thing through because what happens in Iraq is directly related to our own security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to make a statement about the situation taking place in Darfur and to update my colleagues. But I wish to speak briefly to my colleagues and to others about the amazing trial of Saddam Hussein that has started.

This is a trial that is going to reveal a great deal about what took place, the carnage that happened under his rule, and what he did to the people of Iraq. I worked with a number of Iraqi dissidents over a period of time. The things they reported—the mass graves, the persecutions, the intimidation by this Government of Saddam Hussein—is something that has not been well revealed. Hopefully, that is going to come out in this trial. We will see change as it progresses.

DARFUR

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I wish to update my colleagues on what is taking place in Sudan in the Darfur region. This is something about which I spoke several times in this Chamber. It is a genocide as the Senate, the House, and the President declared it a genocide. Others at the U.N. call it crimes against humanity. Under either definition, it is a horrific set of circumstances that has occurred in that region. Yet the response to date has still not been effective. People are continuing to be killed and slaughtered and run out of their villages, and the African Union troops have not succeeded in securing peace in that region. I want to update my colleagues about what is taking place.

The mandate of the African Union troops—and this is the African countries that have formed the African Union force—is simply to monitor and report on the current cease-fire. That is insufficient. I am going to detail why it is insufficient and what has happened because of their insufficient mandate and rules of engagement not being appropriate for the circumstances.

To date, they have largely written and filed away reports. Without a mandate robust enough to protect the civilians or prevent violence or assistance robust enough to provide a well-sized and equipped force, there is not much hope for the people seeking safety in Darfur.

A few weeks ago, the African Union came out with their strongest statement regarding the violence. This was a clear call for the international community to shine the spotlight on this crisis and to realize the implications it will have on the entire region.

While the parties are engaged in the sixth round of peace talks—and that is progress; we do have peace talks engaged in by the people in Darfur, the Government in Sudan, the jingaweit militia that has been given equipment by the Government in Sudan—violence continues to take place even as these peace talks move forward.

In the last few weeks, attacks have been carried out by the jingaweit militia, the Government forces, and the rebel movement—all three. The African Union announced:

You would recall that in the past one month, we witnessed a series of violations in Darfur, with widespread violence against villages, commercial and humanitarian convoys, and even IDP camps.

These are camps where individual citizens are going to get away from the raids and carnage.

This rendered the work of the humanitarian agencies and NGOs in the area difficult and, in some cases, they were forced to suspend their activities.

There was an unprecedented move against IDP camps and the first reports of the Government of Sudan's use of helicopters since January. A number of coordinated attacks has been reported since mid-September involving hun-

dreds of jingaweit militia—this is the militia armed by the Government of Sudan—and Government forces working together killing and injuring many and displacing thousands more. Just this week, a number of civilians were killed in fighting that took place in the town of Kutum after a rebel and Government force clashed.

The African Union articulates:

A clearly premeditated and well rehearsed combined operation was carried out by the Government of Sudan military and police at approximately 11 a.m. in the town of Tawilla and its IDP camps in North Darfur. The Government of Sudan forces used approximately 41 trucks, 7 land cruisers in the operation which resulted in a number of deaths, massive displacement of civilians and the destruction of several houses in the surrounding areas, as well as some tents in the IDP camp.

In addition to these violations, there are reports that the Government of Sudan has painted their military trucks in the African Union colors, making it extremely difficult for civilians to distinguish between monitors or attackers. All parties have violated the cease-fire agreement on several occasions since it was established in 2004. Conditions for humanitarian organizations remain extremely difficult. This week, the United Nations announced its plan to withdraw all nonessential staff from Darfur.

In addition to an upsurge in violence by the Government and the government-backed jingaweit militia, I am very troubled by the recent violence aimed at the African Union by rebel groups. In particular, the recent kidnappings and killings of African Union troops should be strongly condemned and swift justice should be brought to the perpetrators of these crimes. The African Union has called for these events to be brought to the attention of the Security Council in their communique of October 10 of this year.

The New York Times reported yesterday that some of the once-government-backed militia groups are fracturing and targeting government-run entities, such as police stations. Infighting amongst the rebels is another common hurdle to achieving peace. This is the chaos that has plagued Darfur.

Ambassador John Bolton's recent decision to block the UN Envoy on Genocide from testifying before the Security Council has undoubtedly raised some eyebrows. However, if he means what he says—that actions speak louder than words—then I urge the Congress, the administration, the United Nations, and the international community to do something. I applaud Ambassador Bolton's recognition of the fact that the current arms embargo is not adequate, it must be expanded, and there must be compliance.

I urge my colleagues to consider these recent events and to redouble our efforts to bring an end to the genocide that is happening as I speak. I urge my colleagues and the chairman of the

Foreign Relations Committee to quickly report out the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. I have not spoken directly to it, but I will speak about getting this act passed. We need to get it put into law.

This legislation increases pressure on Khartoum, provides greater support for the African Union mission in Darfur to help protect civilians and impose sanctions on individuals who are responsible for the atrocities, and encourages the appointment of a U.S. special envoy to help advance a comprehensive peace process for Darfur and all of Sudan. It also calls for the United States to push for a strong Security Council resolution, amongst other things, that expands the arms embargo.

We can no longer remain indifferent to the suffering Africans of Darfur. We must move beyond the politics and agree on the fundamentals that will help save lives immediately. It is quite simple. When the "never" is removed from "never again," it will happen—again and again and again. We cannot be silent and inactive on Darfur as people die.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the people of Iraq on writing another chapter in the history of their nation. After the coalition forces toppled Saddam's oppressive regime, many believed it would take years until the Iraqis would be in control of their government apparatus. They were wrong. On June 28, 2004, the transfer of power took place and Iraqis became the rulers of their nation. On January 20, 2005, millions of people, including women, risked their lives to choose the members of a temporary Parliament responsible for drafting the new constitution. This past weekend, millions of Iraqis lined up to cast their ballots in more than 6,000 polling places across Iraq.

The Iraqi people's vision of a free and stable Iraq led them to an important milestone—voting on a democratic Iraqi-written constitution. Last weekend, through will and determination, more than 60 percent of the eligible voters in Iraq chose to speak up against tyranny and oppression—a higher percentage of voter turnout than in the 2004 U.S. Presidential election.

What we saw in Iraq on October 15, 2005, proved that even those oppressed for decades will peacefully choose their own future when given a chance to participate in a fair and open electoral process.

There had been much speculation that a majority of Sunnis would boycott the referendum. However, until the last few days before the vote, leaders of the Shi'a and the Kurds worked

relentlessly to convince their Sunni countrymen and women to vote either for or against the constitution. Their work came to fruition when millions of Sunnis lined up to cast their ballots and decide the future of their country.

While many Sunnis voted against the proposed constitution, the referendum sent a clear message that all Iraqis are willing to invest in the democratic process.

By casting their ballots, millions of Iraqis also sent a strong message against terrorism. Ideology of hate has no place in the world, no place in Islam, and most certainly no place in Iraq. Terrorists' tactics of striking innocent men and women and children are despicable and cowardly. Terror has not derailed the political process, nor the establishment of the rule of law. Despite fears of retaliation by al-Qaida and other terrorists, millions of Iraqis chose to participate in the process that will decide the future of their nation.

The Iraqi security forces have also started to make a significant difference. According to our military leaders and officials on the ground, the Iraqi security forces were clearly in the lead in securing polling sites around the country. Backed by the coalition forces, the Iraqi military presence was increased by 35 percent since January. Press reports indicated that scattered instances of violence were quickly suppressed by the Iraqis.

This accomplishment indicates the willingness of the Iraqi security forces to stand up to insurgents and protect their fellow countrymen. With each Iraqi soldier trained and equipped to carry out the mission, Iraq draws closer to be able to stand on its own and protect Iraq's freedom.

As they have learned the power of the ballot box, Iraqis will soon be experiencing the strength of the rule of law during the trial of Saddam Hussein that convenes today. Only a couple thousand years ago, thousands of Iraqis—including women and children—were killed, tortured, and wrongfully imprisoned. Nevertheless, the current Iraqi Government fully understands the importance of a fair trial and the precedents it will establish. As a result of these advancements in Iraq, the country's most brutal dictator will face trial by a jury of his peers, a trial that thousands of Saddam's victims never received. The world will pay close attention as the Iraqi judicial system moves forward with this challenge. I am confident the Iraqis will adhere to the highest standard of the rule of law to reach a proper conclusion.

Today, the successful referendum in Iraq would not have been possible without our brave men and women in uniform who were called by our Nation's leaders to perform a noble but difficult task. Their commitment and dedication to peace and prosperity around the globe has never been more evident. Nearly 150,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are deployed in Iraq, doing

their duty with pride, patriotism, and perseverance. Our success in Iraq and Afghanistan has not come without cost. Those who have fallen have served a cause greater than themselves and deserve a very special honor. My heart goes out to the families whose sons and daughters have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The people of Iraq have clearly spoken of their desire for a free and democratic Iraq. The terrorists understand that their only chance is to break the will of the American people and force us to retreat. We will not waver in our support of the Iraqi people. We will not waver in our support of the democratic process and the rule of law. And we will not waver in our cause for freedom in a land that has known nothing but oppression. The lessons learned in previous world conflicts have proven that when the stakes are so high, we must remain firm, resist the enemy, and fight until the war is won.

Mr. President, our Nation has a leader who has made it clear that winning the war on terror is a defining moment for the civilized world. Since September 11, 2001, President Bush has taken bold steps to ensure the safety and the security of the United States, especially against terrorist organizations and the nation states that support them.

Specifically, since President Bush has taken office, the United States, under his leadership, has—and I would like to list a number of successes against terrorist organizations—over-taken two terrorist regimes, rescued two nations and liberated some 50 million people; captured or killed close to two-thirds of known senior al-Qaida operatives; captured or killed 45 of the 55 most wanted in Iraq, including Iraq's deposed dictator, Saddam Hussein; hunted down thousands of terrorists and regime remnants in Afghanistan and Iraq; disrupted terrorist cells on most continents and likely prevented a number of planned attacks.

This is an astounding record of accomplishment for our Commander in Chief, his national security staff, and the phenomenal men and women of our military services. The United States went to war in Afghanistan and Iraq, risking significant loss of life and treasure to protect our way of life. Our goals are clear and twofold: Destroy the nexus of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction that personified the two ousted regimes and create in their stead stable, democratic states able to participate in the modern world today. And we see the results of that successful effort in both Afghanistan and Iraq. We succeeded in our first goal, having killed or captured perpetrators and supporters of the enemy terrorists.

As I discussed previously, the courageous people of Afghanistan and Iraq are making remarkable progress toward adoption of constitutional reforms to secure momentum for a lasting democratic independence. Our Commander in Chief deserves recognition for these achievements. America