

Government stopped the vote counting in a blatant move to manipulate the results. Accusations of vote rigging forced the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia, NEBE, to delay the release of the official results.

The controversy led to protests in Addis Ababa, the Oromiya regions, and other provinces. On June 8, in response to protesters challenging the provisional results of the elections, Ethiopian security forces are accused of shooting at least 40 protesters, killing 26, temporarily detaining over 500 student protesters and arresting at least 50 people. Ethiopia's main opposition political party, the Coalition for Unity and Democracy Party, CUDP, refused to take its seats in Parliament in protest of the election results. Just recently, 50 members of the CUDP took their seats in Parliament, but there is some concern that they were pressured into doing so.

Last month, the situation in Ethiopia took a further turn for the worse. On November 1, following street demonstrations that erupted into 4 days of violence when police started shooting, at least 46 protesters were killed in Addis Ababa and other towns, and some 4,000 were arrested. There have been numerous reports of widespread arbitrary detention, beatings, torture, disappearances, and the use of excessive force by police and soldiers against anyone suspected of supporting the CUDP detainees.

The detainees include distinguished Ethiopian patriots such as Hailu Shawel, president of the CUDP; Professor Mesfin Woldemariam, former chair of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council; Dr. Yacob Hailemariam, a former U.N. Special Envoy and former prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; Ms. Birtukan Mideksa, CUDP vice president and a former judge; and Dr. Berhanu Negga, the recently elected mayor of Addis Ababa and university professor of economics.

Today, the entire senior leadership of the CUDP is reportedly in jail and has been held incommunicado in harsh conditions, without access to their families or legal representatives. Amnesty International considers these individuals to be prisoners of conscience who have neither used nor advocated violence. The government of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi is seeking to charge them with treason, a capital offense, for the "crime" of urging their supporters to engage in peaceful protest on their behalf. CUDP leaders are scheduled to appear in court today, presumably to be officially charged with treason.

Journalists and members of the media have also been jailed. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, Ethiopian authorities have prevented most private newspapers from publishing, arrested or harassed local journalists and their family members, and threatened to charge journalists with treason. Thirteen journalists have

been detained since last month's antigovernment protests, including two more who were just arrested this week.

It is particularly disturbing, when one considers these events, that since 1991, the government of Prime Minister Meles has received billions of dollars in foreign aid, including to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law in his country. Recently, the European Union suspended its aid to Prime Minister Meles' government and is seeking ways to channel it to the Ethiopian people through private voluntary organizations.

Last month, thousands of Ethiopians and their supporters in this country came to Washington to protest the violence and repression by the Meles government and to urge the Bush administration to help establish real democracy and the rule of law in Ethiopia. Ethiopia has been an ally of the United States in combating international terrorism, yet it is using similar tactics against its own people.

Over the past several years, Ethiopia has made progress in both political reform and economic development. But that progress has been overshadowed by the tragic events of the past 6 months. The Government's heavy-handed tactics to steal the election and persecute those who sought to play by the rules of democracy, should be universally condemned.

The Bush administration should make clear to Prime Minister Meles that if his government does not abide by the basic principles of democracy, due process and respect for human rights, including an end to the use of random searches, beatings, mass arrests and lethal force against peaceful protesters, and if political detainees are not released, that we will join with the European Union and suspend our aid to his government, including our support for financing from the World Bank and the African Development Bank other than for basic human needs. There should be severe consequences for such a flagrant subversion of the will of the Ethiopian people.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On January 30, 1999, a 23-year-old disabled man was lured into an apartment in Keansburg, NJ. He was then subjected to three hours of torture at the hands of nine men and women. According to police, the abusers knew the man from their neighborhood, and ridi-

culed him constantly because of his disability.

I believe that the 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. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

CAREGIVERS

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, across the country there are more than 6 million children living in households headed by a grandparent or other relative. Regardless of the reason children enter relative-care the death of a parent, neglect, abuse, military deployment, or poverty—it is never, ever the fault of the child. I commend grandparents and other relatives who step forward to care for these children, keeping the children out of foster care while providing safe, stable homes, often at great personal sacrifice.

In my state of Illinois, 9 percent of the children live with nonparent relatives. Grandparents and other relative caregivers often provide the best chance for a loving and stable childhood for the children in their care, but their hard work and dedication often goes unnoticed. Today I offer my formal acknowledgement and deepest appreciation for the ongoing service of these caregivers to our country and our Nation's most valuable asset—our children.

There are still far too many barriers preventing grandparent- and other relative-caregivers from accessing the services they need. For example, even though grandparent-caregivers are eligible for many housing programs through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD officials on the ground often unwittingly exclude grandparents from accessing housing because of confusion over the relevant laws. For this reason, I recently worked with my colleague Senator STABENOW to obtain \$4 million in new funding for grandparent-caregiver housing demonstration projects.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to improve access to services for grandparent- and other relative-headed households. My grandparents played a central role in my upbringing, and without them I would not be standing before you today. I am certain that the same can be said of thousands of children and adults in Illinois and across the country. It is time that we recognize the contributions of these worthy relative-caregivers, and grant them the access to Federal services that they deserve.

CONFIRMATION OF SUSAN BODINE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today, I am releasing the hold I placed on the nomination of Susan Bodine for Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid

Waste and Emergency Response based on the written commitment I have received from EPA to provide information and documents I have requested in connection with oversight of the Superfund program. I originally requested information on the Superfund program immediately after the Ms. Bodine's confirmation hearing in July.

To date, Ms. Bodine and EPA have provided only a partial response to my request. I want to be clear that every question I posed to Ms. Bodine and all the information I requested from EPA on this important public health program should have been provided to me without restriction as part of the Congressional oversight process. I ask unanimous consent that the original questions posed to Ms. Bodine be printed in the RECORD. EPA has now committed to provide additional information by January 31, 2006. And I ask that EPA's letter in this regard be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objections, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

QUESTIONS FROM SENATORS BARBARA BOXER, LAUTENBERG AND OBAMA FOR THE EPA NOMINATION HEARING

Questions directed to Susan Bodine who is nominated to be the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, July 15, 2005.

(1) Please work with EPA to provide us with a complete list of Superfund sites in order of current health hazards.

(2) Please indicate how many children live near these sites and how they may be at risk. Please also indicate any daycares, schools, playgrounds or other similar places that are near these sites.

(3) Please indicate what emergency or other short-term steps EPA may conduct at each site to address the risks at that site, and the cost to take those actions.

(4) Please provide the cost to cleanup all 103 sites where EPA has determined "human exposure is not under control."

(5) Please work with EPA to ensure that EPA experts, including regional staff, are available and authorized to answer any of our questions relating to Superfund, including human health risks, cleanup costs and funding shortfalls.

(6) Please ensure that the information provided includes priority list of sites, like that provided to Senator Boxer while chair of the Superfund Subcommittee.

(7) Please work with EPA to ensure that we receive complete and detailed responses for each question in the Oct. 2004 letter that Senator Jeffords and Senator Boxer sent to then-Administrator Leavitt on Superfund, with updated responses to the present.

(8) Please work EPA to provide us with detailed information to date on clean-up work and activities that will not be performed at sites that could use additional funding to initiate new projects or to expedite work at on-going projects on those sites. Please include all regional requests for funding.

(9) Please work with EPA to provide us with complete information to date on the on-going remedial projects that could use additional funding and the dollar shortfall for each project. Please provide all regional requests for funding.

(10) Please work with EPA to provide us with complete information to date on the removal projects that could use additional funding and the dollar shortfall for each project. Please provide all regional requests for funding.

(11) Please work with EPA to provide us with complete information to date on the pipeline projects that could use additional funding and the dollar shortfall for each project. Please provide all regional requests for funding.

(12) Section 108(b) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act required EPA to promulgate regulations—"not later than five years after December 11, 1980", which required "classes of facilities [to] establish and maintain evidence of financial responsibility consistent with the degree and duration of risk associated with the production, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous substances." Please work with EPA to provide me with information that describes all activities that EPA has undertaken to meet this requirement to promulgate these regulations.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY,
Washington, DC, December 16, 2005.
Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BOXER: As a follow up to discussion with your staff, EPA is prepared to provide the following information and documents.

1. An electronic version of the document ("template") provided to the Committee in an enclosure to a letter signed by me on October 31, 2005 (available immediately);

2. An updated version of the list entitled, "Currently Projected Projects Ready for Construction Funding in FY05," previously provided to the Committee in an enclosure to a letter signed by John Reeder on July 19, 2005. The list will include a column displaying "actual" FY 2005 funds provided to each site on the list, and a column that provides a code characterizing the nature of human health or ecological risk at each site (available immediately);

3. In response to the Committee's question on site funding needs, EPA's CERCLIS database provides the most complete existing record. EPA will provide reports from the CERCLIS database (SCAP-4 "snapshot") from late summer of 2004 reflecting each regional office's planning estimates for funding prior to budget discussions with EPA headquarters. To determine the date of the "snapshot" that provides the best information on funding each region will be asked to identify the date that best reflects when the region loaded its assessment of planning data into CERCLIS, prior to changes based on discussions with headquarters. Also, EPA will provide a coversheet that summarizes relevant planning data and FY 2005 obligations, and EPA's operating plan and preliminary allocation memo for FY 2005 (available by January 31, 2006).

4. Additional information from Regional offices on opportunities for accelerated remedial actions at Superfund sites categorized by EPA as "Human Exposure Not Under Control" (available by January 31, 2006).

To collect information under this item, we will ask the regional offices the following: Explain the known opportunities for the use of additional FY 2005 funds to accelerate response actions, including removal actions, remedial actions, and any characterization or testing that could have accelerated remedial action. Include description of costs of these opportunities, if known. If action was not undertaken in FY 2005, explain why not, including funding limitations. Please indicate if the opportunity for accelerated response action still exists, or if conditions at the site present new opportunities for accelerated actions since FY 2005. Include the in-

formation in the attached template, and attach copies of supporting documentation.

Please contact me if I can be of further assistance, or your staff may call me on 564-5200.

Sincerely,

STEPHANIE N. DAIGLE,
Associate Administrator.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, while a complete response to my request remains outstanding, I have determined that with the additional commitments I received today, the confirmation of Ms. Bodine can proceed with the expectation and assurance from Ms. Bodine to work closely with me and provide cooperation on the oversight of this program.

In addition, the Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator INHOFE, has agreed that the Superfund program and its critical missions are overdue for a comprehensive oversight hearing and that such a hearing shall be held in the Superfund and Waste Management Subcommittee of which I am ranking member. Senator THUNE, the chairman of the subcommittee, has also agreed to this request.

There have been no comprehensive oversight hearings of this important public health program in over 3 years. Ms. Bodine has agreed to testify at this hearing after her confirmation, and we will have other outside witnesses as well. We have also requested that Administrator Stephen Johnson be available as well. I want to thank my colleague, Senator INHOFE for agreeing to this critical hearing.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, both subcommittee Chairman THUNE and I recognize the importance of oversight of the Superfund program. To that end, and consistent with Senator BOXER's request, Senator THUNE's subcommittee will be holding an oversight hearing of EPA's Superfund program once Susan Bodine, the President's nominee to head EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, is confirmed by the Senate with Ms. Bodine testifying on behalf of EPA. After Ms. Bodine is confirmed, we will begin to work on scheduling this hearing with a targeted time frame of the first quarter of 2006, but no later than the Memorial Day recess. Senator THUNE will work closely with Senator BOXER in scheduling the hearing.

I expect EPA to be forthcoming in this hearing about the program and look forward to Ms. Bodine's confirmation so that she may help ensure that the EPA is responsive to the Senator's requests for information about the management of the program and the impacts on communities throughout the country.

Mr. THUNE. I am in full agreement with the chairman of the Environment & Public Works Committee and I will be working closely with him and subcommittee ranking member BOXER on scheduling this hearing once Ms. Bodine is confirmed. I am committed to having Ms. Bodine, as the EPA witness, appear before the subcommittee

before Memorial Day recess, 2006. I look forward to working with Senator BOXER on scheduling a date and filling out the witness list.

SECURITY CONTRACTOR PRACTICES IN IRAQ

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today, to discuss a matter of serious concern. On December 9, The Washington Post reported that the Department of Defense is investigating a video posted on an Aegis-employee affiliated Web site which contains scenes of violence and shooting against Iraqi civilians.

An estimated 25,000 private security contractors are currently working in Iraq, earning anywhere from \$550 to \$1,500 a day. Many of them are doing their best to help maintain security for the reconstruction of Iraq. However, if the events displayed in the video are accurate, the actions of these few contractors put our troops at tremendous risk. The video depicts the back window of a PSD, personal security detail, vehicle. In the video you can hear a machine gun being fired at cars which are clearly more than 50 meters behind the vehicle. The cars drift off the road after many shots, leaving one to assume the driver has been shot dead. During the entire video, the Elvis Presley song "Mystery Train" plays in the background.

This behavior is offensive. The actions of the individuals in the video put our troops at risk because such incendiary behavior only increases hatred towards Americans. Whether or not we agree with the troops' presence in Iraq, we all agree that the safety of our troops is paramount. Our troops in Iraq who wear uniforms are instant targets for retaliatory violence.

The U.S. service men and women who deploy to Iraq serve because of a sense of selfless service and duty. As members of Congress, it is our duty to conduct oversight into the questionable behavior of the private security contractors. While our troops continue to be deployed to Iraq and the security situation remains fragile at best, it is in our best interest to make sure civilian-contractors do not exacerbate the situation any further.

Therefore, I will be seeking a congressional inquiry into the operations and rules of engagement granted to private security contractors currently operating in Iraq. I will also recommend a review of the contract awarded to Aegis Specialist Risk Management. If these events are happening, we must stop them. We must take action so that our troops and the Iraqi people know that gratuitous violence on the part of the people we deploy or employ will not be tolerated.

INCLUSION OF IDAHO AND MONTANA IN THE RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise in support of this bill to expand the Radi-

ation Exposure Compensation Act, RECA, to include the States of Idaho and Montana. I am an original cosponsor of the legislation being introduced by Senator CRAPO.

The National Academy of Sciences, NAS, recognizes that citizens affected by fallout from atomic bomb testing in Nevada were not only the citizens of that State or Utah, but also citizens to the north, and east, and throughout much of the world. This bill, consistent studies showing that parts of Idaho and Montana were among the most affected, expands RECA geographically to include these two States.

My colleagues and I are in the business of making Idahoans eligible for RECA compensation as expeditiously as possible. Studies that take years will simply not do for citizens who would otherwise be eligible if they lived on the other side of a State line.

The NAS recommended that RECA should be overhauled, and I will make sure this happens. In the meantime, those Idahoans and Montanans who qualify for compensation today should be made eligible immediately.

BURMA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I will discuss the disturbing situation in Burma.

I have consistently stressed my deep concerns regarding the repressive military junta in Burma that continues to commit severe human rights violations against the Burmese people. Despite consistent calls to halt abuses by the Burmese military such as rape, harsh political repression, torture, extrajudicial executions, forced labor, and human trafficking, the SPDC fails to address these egregious violations and permits violations to continue with impunity.

However, I am encouraged by ASEAN's rejuvenated efforts to hold Burma to long-promised democratic reforms. ASEAN's resolute calls for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of NLD and more than 1,100 political prisoners, and for real democratic reform, are vital to legitimate progress in Burma and regional stability and values. ASEAN has long pushed for these goals and its recent announcement that it will send an envoy to evaluate Burma's progress in democratic reform is an important step toward accountability.

It is far past time for the international community to begin a dialogue on Burma. I welcome the unanimous decision by the United Nations Security Council to discuss the situation there. The September 2005 report produced by Nobel Prize laureate Desmond Tutu and former Czech President Vaclav Havel provided a solid basis for these discussions. Burma's military junta has long prevented United Nations envoys from visiting, and I look forward to the international community engaging in a serious discussion of the situation there.

Those demanding real reform in Burma must not relent. The SPDC must take immediate steps to release Aung Sang Suu Kyi and other political prisoners and to create a broad-based democratic government that respects human rights and the rule of law.

WORK OUTAGE AT CALLAWAY NUCLEAR PLANT

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise to honor approximately 3,000 permanent and supplemental workers, who recently set a new world time record while conducting a safe and successful work outage on AmerenUE's Callaway Nuclear Plant. The Callaway Plant is located in my home State of Missouri and provides permanent jobs to more than 1,000 people. Since 1984, Callaway has generated an average of 8.9 billion kilowatthours of electricity per year—equal to the amount used annually by more than 750,000 average households.

The Callaway Plant is owned and operated by AmerenUE, a subsidiary of Ameren Corporation, which provides energy services to about 2.3 million electric customers in Missouri and Illinois. Callaway, along with 102 other nuclear powerplants in the United States, is a critical component of our Nation's energy mix, providing low-cost, reliable, and clean energy from an abundant fuel source.

Approximately every 18 months nuclear plants must be shut down for refueling, during which time the employees perform literally thousands of maintenance activities, modifications, and tests. In Callaway's case, the plant supplies nearly a quarter of Ameren's electricity production, thus it is critical that the work be done in a safe and timely manner so the plant can be brought back online as soon as possible.

The recent Callaway Plant outage was the most complex in its history, as it included not only refueling and the usual maintenance activities, but also replacement of four massive steam generators, which measure 70 feet tall and weigh 400 tons each, as well as main turbine rotors. The Callaway team set a new world record for such outages, accomplishing their work in 63 days and 13 hours, beating the previous record of 64 days and 17 hours. The combination of the new generators and rotors are expected to add about 60 megawatts of additional generating capacity to the plant using the same amount of fuel.

This summer Congress passed an energy bill, which recognizes the tremendous need for increasing our supply of clean energy while reducing our dependence on foreign sources of energy. The high-quality work of the Callaway employees plays a major role in carrying out the objectives of this important legislation. By not only completing the outage in a safe and timely