

or any other meeting but shall not have the authority to vote on any matter before the Subcommittee unless he or she is a Member of such Subcommittee.

2. Subcommittees shall be considered de novo whenever there is a change in the chairmanship, and seniority on the particular Subcommittee shall not necessarily apply.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

It shall not be in order during a meeting of the Committee to move to proceed to the consideration of any bill or resolution unless the bill or resolution has been filed with the Clerk of the Committee not less than 48 hours in advance of the Committee meeting, in as many copies as the Chairman of the Committee prescribes. This rule may be waived with the concurrence of the Chairman and the ranking minority member of the full Committee.

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.

Last week, a man pleaded guilty to aggravated manslaughter for killing a 15-year-old girl at a bus stop. Sakia Gunn, the victim, and four other girls were standing outside a bus stop when the assailant approached the girls with an invitation to a party. The girls responded that they were lesbians and were not interested in going. The assailant began making homophobic insults at the girls and stabbed Sakia Gunn.

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.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE ABUSE OF FOREIGN DETAINEES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, with this new session of Congress and the President's new term we are presented with new opportunities for change. Congress and the President have embraced these opportunities on many issues—new cabinet officials have been confirmed and a renewed effort is underway by the administration to repair strained international relationships. Unfortunately, on one important front there has been no change: The administration continues to stonewall on the prisoner abuse scandal and Congress continues to abdicate its oversight responsibility on this issue.

Ignoring this problem will not make it go away. Even without a comprehen-

sive, independent investigation into the abuse of detainees, we continue to learn more about this scandal from press reports and the court-ordered release of Government documents in response to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) litigation.

The latest set of documents made public through the FOIA case reveal not only more incidents of abuse, but also indicate that soldiers in Afghanistan destroyed evidence of detainee mistreatment. One file documents the Army's investigation into the discovery of a compact disk during an office clean-up in Afghanistan in July 2004. The disk contained photos of U.S. soldiers pointing their handguns and rifles at the heads of bound and hooded detainees. Many of the soldiers questioned about these photos said they were "joking around" and that they wanted to have some good pictures to show their friends back home. If the roles were reversed and it was American POWs being used as photo props with weapons pointed at their heads, we would be rightly outraged by this conduct.

While the photos on this disk are disturbing in their own right, the circumstances surrounding this investigation are even more troubling. Unlike the photos from Abu Ghraib, these photos were not investigated because of an American soldier, in an act of conscious, gave the photos to a superior officer. These new photos were discovered by accident. The subsequent investigation into the photos revealed that soldiers in the unit were told by their superiors to delete similar photos of abuse to prevent their disclosure.

New details have also emerged about one of the infamous Abu Ghraib photos. Many will remember the photo of Manadel al-Jimadi's corpse packed in ice with Specialist Charles Graner posing over the body and giving the "thumbs-up" sign. We have known for months that this was a homicide, but a recent news report provides additional details about al-Jimadi's death. Al-Jimadi, one of the CIA's ghost detainees at Abu Ghraib, was secretly held at the prison. The International Committee of the Red Cross was denied access to him in violation of the Geneva Conventions. Now, press reports indicate that he died in a position known as "Palestinian hanging." This barbaric practice entails cuffing the detainee's hands behind his back and suspending him from the wrists.

President Bush condemned Saddam Hussein for similar practices; the President should be as outraged when these acts are committed by American personnel.

Meanwhile, the media continues to reveal details about the administration's use of extraordinary rendition to transfer terrorism suspects in U.S. custody to the custody of countries where they are likely to be tortured. A recent article in *The New Yorker*, titled "Outsourcing Torture," provides disturbing details about how the adminis-

tration embraced the use of renditions after the attacks on September 11. The article cites three instances where the U.S. transferred suspected militants from Afghanistan to Uzbekistan. Although the fate of these men is not known, Uzbekistan is known to use interrogation methods such as partially boiling a detainee's hand or arm.

The State Department recently released its annual human rights report. The report criticized several countries for employing interrogation techniques that the State Department considered to be torture, yet are similar to techniques approved in 2002 by Secretary Rumsfeld. How can we criticize these countries for using techniques that our own Defense Secretary approved? How can our State Department denounce countries for engaging in torture while the CIA secretly transfers detainees to the very same countries? President Bush said that U.S. personnel do not engage in torture, but transferring detainees to other countries where they will be tortured does not absolve our government of responsibility. By outsourcing torture to these countries, we diminish our own values as a nation and lose our credibility as an advocate of human rights around the world.

Even without further government action, this scandal is not going to go away. It is time for us to lead the investigation, rather than wait to read about the latest discovery of abuse in the newspaper. As I have said before, there needs to be a thorough, independent investigation of the actions of those involved, from the people who committed abuses to the officials who set these policies in motion. The investigations completed thus far provide additional insight into how the prison abuses occurred, but their narrow mandates prevented them from addressing critical issues.

For example, an executive summary of the long-expected report on interrogation policy by Admiral Albert T. Church was released today. The full report, which is classified, reportedly criticizes the Pentagon for a failure of oversight, yet finds no direct evidence that high level officials ordered the mistreatment of detainees. The executive summary contains only a brief reference to the role of contractors in interrogations, and affirms that numerous contracts have been awarded in an ad hoc fashion and without central coordination. The role of contractors is an area sorely in need of a comprehensive investigation.

Similarly, the unclassified summary leaves many questions unanswered about Department of Defense (DOD) interaction with the CIA. It confirms that approximately 30 detainees were kept "off the books" in Iraq. The summary admits that DOD assisted the intelligence agencies with detainee transfers and supported interrogations by "other government agencies"—which is government-speak for the CIA—at DOD facilities. What is missing from the Church report, however, is

a full exploration of the role of the CIA in detention, rendition, and interrogation. The Agency apparently cooperated with the Church investigation, but provided information on activities only in Iraq, and not on any of the other nations or facilities where the CIA is holding and interrogating detainees.

A very important piece of information came out of today's hearing on the Church report, however. In his testimony before the Armed Services Committee, Admiral Church was asked by Senator KENNEDY about unclassified paragraphs of the full report that discuss early meetings of the DOD working group on interrogations. That working group produced a memo that tracked very closely the infamous August 2002 Justice Department torture memo. The Justice memo claimed that for an action to rise to the level of torture it must result in pain equivalent to the type associated with organ failure or even death.

Apparently, the working group was briefed by Justice Department lawyers who presented the Justice memo's legal analysis as controlling. According to Senator KENNEDY's exchange with Admiral Church, members of the working group protested. They believed that interrogation policy should follow the Geneva Conventions. Admiral Church confirmed that the working group was overruled by the Pentagon's Office of General Counsel, which insisted on using the torture memo as the legal foundation for interrogation techniques. Specifically, Admiral Church admitted, the working group was overruled by William J. Haynes, General Counsel of the Department of Defense, whom the President has nominated to a lifetime appointment as a Federal Circuit Court judge. And still, given all of this information, the Pentagon claims that abuses did not stem from policies generated from the highest levels of this administration.

Only a truly independent entity can comprehensively investigate the policy decisions that were made at the top and the abuses that followed in the field. There will always be scandals and tragedies in a nation's history. What makes America unique is that we do not hide from these issues; we investigate them, learn from our mistakes, and make sure they do not happen again. I have no doubt that an independent investigation into the abuse of detainees will be painful, but it is also a necessary step to moving forward.

44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, as the Peace Corps celebrates its 44th anniversary this month, I would like to take this opportunity to commend its many wonderful volunteers, past and present, and the remarkable work they do. I am very pleased to report that three universities in Illinois—the University of Illinois at Champaign-Ur-

bana, Northwestern University, and the University of Chicago—are three of the top Peace Corps-volunteer producing colleges and universities in the country. There are currently 295 volunteers from Illinois working in countries around the world, and I am tremendously proud of the service provided by each and every one of them.

The work of the Peace Corps in promoting mutual understanding between our country and the rest of the world has never been more relevant than it is today. The Peace Corps began in 1961 under President John F. Kennedy as a unique experiment in humanitarian service and cultural exchange and has grown to become one of the most widely respected American institutions in the world. Since the founding of the Peace Corps, over 178,000 volunteers have served in 138 countries.

Peace Corps volunteers share their knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm by serving as health educators, youth and agricultural workers, teachers, and business advisors. Of the 7,700 volunteers currently serving, over 3,100 are working on HIV/AIDS education and prevention projects, and I commend them on their critically important work on this global crisis.

I also would like to honor past volunteers who have helped to build this wonderful program into what it is today, who have empowered and given voice to individuals and communities in developing countries around the world. Individually and collectively, Peace Corps volunteers represent the very best of our great country, and I am proud to salute them on their 44th anniversary.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON DEATHS OF WOMEN IN THE STATE OF CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of a concurrent resolution I submitted yesterday which conveys the deepest sympathy of the Senate to the families of the young women who have been tragically murdered in Ciudad Juarez and throughout the state of Chihuahua, and urges the Governments of Mexico and the United States to work together to address this issue. This is an issue that has not only affected the people of Mexico but has long troubled the border communities across the entire Southwest region.

Last Congress, I submitted a similar version of this resolution in conjunction with Representative HILDA SOLIS in the House of Representatives, and I am pleased that Senators CORNYN, CORZINE, DURBIN, ENSIGN, FEINGOLD, FEINSTEIN, LANDRIEU, LEAHY, LEVIN, MIKULSKI, and MURRAY, have joined me in resubmitting this resolution.

This last Tuesday was International Womens' Day, and I believe that as we mark the achievements women have made, we must also recognize the challenges that remain. Stopping violence against women is one such challenge that we face. It is far too prevalent in

our country and around the world, and we must do all we can to bring it to an end.

Since 1993, bodies of young women began appearing in the deserts outside the city of Juarez, Mexico, marking the beginning of a horrendous epidemic that has plagued the United States-Mexico border region for more than 10 years. Since then, more than 370 women have been killed. Many of the young women were abducted in broad daylight in well-populated areas, held captive for several days, and subjected to physical violence, humiliation, and sexual torture before having their mutilated bodies discovered days, or sometimes years, later in deserted areas. Since 2004, at least 30 women have been killed in the city of Juarez in Chihuahua.

On May 28, 2004, 14-year-old Luisa Rocío Chavez was found murdered in the state of Chihuahua after disappearing the previous morning on her way home from the store. She had been raped and strangled to death, and her body was found partially clothed. And before that, on April 26, 2004, a 33-year-old factory worker, Teresa Torbellin, was found after being beaten to death and dragged through bushes and desert, eventually being dumped in a deserted area outside the city. Like these deaths, nearly all of the cases remain unsolved. In fact, many of the bodies of victims have yet to be positively identified. One can only imagine how much pain and suffering this has caused the families and friends of these young women. I want to make sure these deaths are never forgotten, and that the Governments on both sides of the border continue to give this issue the attention it so rightly deserves.

Human rights groups have reported that in many cases bodies have been misidentified, evidence contaminated or lost, key witnesses not properly interviewed, and autopsies inadequately performed. And there have been serious allegations of instances of individuals being tortured into confessing to these horrible crimes. In one such case, an American citizen, Cynthia Kiecker, and her husband Ulises Perzabal were accused of killing a young woman and reportedly tortured into confessing. I am pleased that they have since been released.

President Vicente Fox has taken steps to address this issue by setting up the Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence Against Women, which is responsible for coordinating federal and state efforts in preventing violence of women in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua, and appointing a special prosecutor for punishing those responsible for the murders in Ciudad Juarez. The federal prosecutor, Maria Lopez Urbina, has reviewed over 200 cases and cited 130 Chihuahua public servants for negligence and malfeasance. I am encouraged that the new governor of Chihuahua, Jose Reyes Baeza Terrazass, has indicated a willingness to take steps to resolve these murders.