

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-Urbana, 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 Rocio 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 Terrazas, has indicated a willingness to take steps to resolve these murders.

I also want to recognize the efforts of Commissioner Guadalupe Morfin Otero, who has done some good work in investigating the issues surrounding these deaths. The Mexican Federal Government has also established a DNA database to help better identify the victims. While obtaining independent verification of victims' remains is an outstanding issue, the creation of this database is a positive step in the right direction.

Although I am pleased that President Fox has taken the initiative on these fronts, I continue to believe that there needs to be a more coordinated effort on the part of the Mexican and U.S. Governments. That is why I have submitted this vitally important resolution. I stand ready to assist in any way I can, and I believe that the U.S. Government should be prepared to do so as well. The U.S. Agency for International Development has begun providing assistance to the state of Chihuahua for judicial reform, and I hope that the Mexican and U.S. Governments can work together on other initiatives as well. This resolution isn't meant to be a condemnation of Mexico. It is meant to express that the U.S. Congress stands with the victims of this violence and is willing to take constructive steps to assist in preventing these murders in the future.

Specifically, this resolution would condemn the abductions and murders of young women in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, express the sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy of the Senate to the families of the young women, and urge a continued multilateral effort on the part of the Governments of Mexico and the United States to address this issue.

To this end, it would urge the Governments of Mexico and the United States to support steps that would allow families to positively identify the remains of the victims, and encourage the Secretary of States to continue to facilitate U.S. participation in such efforts.

It would also encourage the Secretary of State to urge the Mexican Government to ensure fair and proper judicial proceedings for the individuals accused of these abductions and murders, and to impose appropriate punishment for those individuals found guilty of such crimes. Additionally, it would condemn threats against human rights activists and the use of torture as a means of investigation.

Lastly, this resolution would condemn all senseless acts of violence against women across the world and express the solidarity of the people of the United States with the people of Mexico in the face of these tragic and senseless acts.

This problem can't be ignored. We have the chance to help end the suffering of these innocent families, and I hope the Senate will join me in supporting this resolution.

THE TIBETAN DAY OF COMMEMORATION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, Today I rise to commemorate the 46th Anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising of 1959.

It is my sincere hope that both the Chinese government and the Tibetan leaders might use this opportunity to reflect on the importance of pursuing a viable, long-term solution that provides the Tibetan people the right to enjoy religious, cultural, and social autonomy as part of the People's Republic of China.

This anniversary marks a sad, but important day in the history of the Tibetan people.

In 1951, two years after the People's Liberation Army first entered Tibet, Chinese government representatives and Tibetan leaders signed what has been called the 17 Point Agreement.

This agreement, among other things, included the promise of Tibetan religious, cultural, and social autonomy, and preserved the institution of the Dalai Lama.

Sadly, the Chinese government failed to uphold these promises and attempted to force "revolutionary socialist reforms" upon the Tibet people and leadership. This ultimately culminated in the 1959 Lhasa Uprising which saw tens of thousands of Tibetans killed and forced the Dalai Lama and many others to flee to India.

Today human rights abuses continue against Tibetans wishing to practice their religion or promote their unique cultural and historical identity. Hundreds have been imprisoned in Tibet, and tens of thousands more have had to flee their homeland.

Nevertheless, the Dalai Lama remains steadfast in his desire to find a long-lasting and viable solution that will provide freedom and autonomy for the Tibetan people without pursuing independence.

In a speech today to mark this 46th anniversary, he stated:

We remain fully committed to the Middle Way Approach of not seeking independence for Tibet and are willing to remain within the People's Republic of China.

He also praised the economic progress and development that has taken place in Tibet over the past 40 years, including the new railroad link that will begin operation this year.

I have personally worked for well over two decades to try and bring both the Chinese government and Tibetan leadership together in a spirit of cooperation and dialogue to overcome the differences that have impeded progress on a solution for Tibet. And after many conversations with the Dalai Lama, I am fully convinced that he is sincere in his promise not to pursue a separate path for Tibet.

To that end, several times over the years I have carried messages from the Dalai Lama to Beijing and communicated regularly with Jiang Zemin and other Chinese officials on the importance of establishing dialogue on the Tibet issue.

I have also been pleased to see that discussions between the Dalai Lama's envoys and Chinese officials have resumed and that a third round of meetings took place last September in Beijing.

It is my hope that both sides will build upon these meetings and that President Hu, with his knowledge and understanding of the Tibetan people, will come to appreciate the international goodwill that would be fostered by his willingness to meet with the Dalai Lama and pursue a reasonable solution to the Tibet issue.

Despite the slow pace of progress over the years, I remain confident that if the Chinese leadership will only sit down with the Dalai Lama and listen openly to his views, that a sustainable solution providing for the preservation of the distinctive identity, religious and cultural heritage for the Tibetan people can be found.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

AMERICAN CULINARY FEDERATION'S SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize a group of Americans who are constantly seeking to improve upon their skills and pursue excellence in their passion and vocation.

Beginning today, chefs, cooks, students and foodservice professionals from Southeastern America will gather in Roanoke, VA for a 4-day conference hosted by the American Culinary Federation's Southwestern Virginia Chapter. The event serves as an invaluable opportunity for these culinary artists to share their immense skill and knowledge with others in their profession. It provides a chance for these culinary artists to create new relationships and foster old ones, and for senior and master chefs to inspire the aspiring junior chefs.

The conference will honor a number of individuals for excellence in their trade, with the following distinctions being awarded: chef of the year award, pastry chef of the year award, and student member of the year award. These individuals will then compete at the national conference of the American Culinary Federation to receive the national award in each division.

In addition to the work the American Culinary Federation does to promote the art of cooking and to enhance the dining experience for those who indulge in a meal prepared by these talented individuals, the ACF also works hard to fight childhood hunger across the nation by providing nutrition-based education programs to children in preschool through grade five. Chefs work to increase the awareness of childhood hunger and poverty, and help to train food-relief agencies.