

Vehicles may be lost, but the lives of astronauts should be protected. We need answers, and I look forward to getting those answers as soon as possible.

HAMAS-LED PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY, A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, more and more information is emerging that this week's kidnapping of an Israeli soldier and the killing of two others was a Hamas plot from day one. Several newspapers are reporting that the attack and kidnapping were carried out by Ahmed Jaabari, the commander of the Hamas military wing who takes his orders from Khaled Mashal, the senior Hamas leader based in Damascus, Syria.

According to the Associated Press, two senior aids to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said that Mashal gave the green light for the operation. This is a stinging indictment of the Syrian regime's participation in global terror and a brutal reminder about Hamas.

I and others have called the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority a terrorist organization. Congress recently passed a bill banning any assistance to the Palestinian Authority until it ends terror, recognizes Israel, and abides by all agreements signed by the Palestinian Authority. But most of all, with this terrorist attack, Hamas has once again shown its true stripes. It remains the murderous terrorist group which carried out scores of suicide bombings in the 1990s.

Our U.S. Ambassador Jones said yesterday, "The problem is in Damascus and that is where we should focus the world's attention." This is the key point. The Syrian Government continues to play host to a range of terrorist groups, including Hamas. And now, one of the outlaws in Damascus has kidnapped an Israeli soldier.

As the author of the Syria Accountability Act and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act, I demand that the government of Syria close the terrorist bases in its country and bring the murderer Khaled Mashal to justice. And I ask President Bush to impose the remaining sanctions of the Syria Accountability Act which it has not yet imposed.

CONGRATULATING COLLEGE WORLD SERIES CHAMPION OREGON STATE BEAVERS

(Mr. WU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, we deal with such serious topics in this House of Representatives, and so I want to bring to the attention of this House and this

Nation a very happy topic. I rise to congratulate the Oregon State University Beavers on winning the College World Series baseball tournament.

This is indeed a Beaver Nation. After taking on UCLA, Stanford, Arizona, and USC, all sunny States, we in the rainy Northwest, with a team of kids from smaller communities all around the State, have successfully won a world championship. This is probably the first world championship since the Portland Trail Blazers won the NBA championship in 1977.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SALMON FISHING SEASON A DISASTER

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to replace Mr. LARSON.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I had an extraordinary meeting with the head of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Mr. Lautenbacher, and his deputy, Mr. Hogarth. They met with six Members of Congress representing the west coast fishers in the United States, particularly from Oregon down into California.

These gentlemen met with us so we could ask them to ask, in all sincerity, when they are going to declare the salmon fishing season, which has been essentially closed by their agency, a disaster. Their answer was: never. Or maybe next year.

It was an extraordinary meeting. They said that because they allowed an extraordinarily limited season, that is, a fisherman can go out and catch up to 75 salmon, which won't quite pay for the fuel to leave the dock, on a few occasions during the year, that they can't anticipate whether or not it will be a disaster for those folks.

Now, the deputy was a little more honest, and he admitted that it was even worse than they thought. No one is fishing. No one is going out with fuel prices like this, and, in fact, there is virtually no activity. But they thought that people might go out. Maybe the price of fish will go way up. I said, to what, a hundred dollars a pound? What

are we talking about? What would induce people to go out into the ocean and catch 75 salmon, a commercial fishing boat? They couldn't answer that.

So we said, your regional counsel recommended a disaster declaration, and you sent it back. When will you process that? They said, oh, well, we have already sent it back again. We said, why did you send it back? They said, well, because they made a recommendation of a disaster.

The people who manage this agency in the region recognized the disaster. They recommended a disaster declaration to the national bureaucrats. The national bureaucrats said, no, you can't do that. They sent it back. They had to strip out their recommendation and then they sent it back and they said, okay.

So when are you going to process all the facts on which they made that determination? They said, not until February. Well, why not until next February? Because people might go out and catch 75 fish, and that might make a difference in whether or not there is a disaster.

It is extraordinary tortured logic. You can't get there from here. So we said, how about you just issue the declaration of a disaster. No, their lawyers say they can't do that. I asked to see the legal opinion. They said, no, they couldn't show me the legal opinion; that they couldn't do that.

We asked to see the recommendation from the regional people about the disaster, and they said, no, you can't have that. You are only Members of Congress representing these people. You can't have those documents because we haven't made a decision yet. When are you going to make a decision? When it is too late for the fishers and their families. When they have already gone bankrupt. When they have already lost their boats. That is next winter when they might get around to making a decision about this year's season.

So, then, I said, okay, how about this: why don't you just close down this lame season that you have created, this 75-fish limit on a few days; just close it down, declare a disaster, and get some assistance to the fishers? They said, oh, no, they couldn't do that because they have already made a decision that is based on certain documents, and they couldn't go back on that. I said, just declare an emergency. No, they are not going to do that.

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They are getting orders from somewhere higher up in this administration that is embarrassed, embarrassed about the politics, embarrassed that 4 years ago, to make hay in an election year, they diverted water from irrigation, from the river to irrigation. They got headlines. They made great political hay with us with it. Now if they declare a disaster on the returning salmon, the class of that year, they are essentially admitting that they impacted that.

In fact, in the Senate, they have already said that this is not a natural disaster. The Parliamentarian there ruled against emergency assistance by the junior Senator from Oregon, because he said this was not a natural disaster; it is manmade. The Bush Administration made this disaster through their mismanagement of the resources in that region.

So now we have the agency saying they are not going to declare a disaster. I think they are just trying to put the small fishers out of business. What the end game is, I am not sure. Maybe giant aquaculture. Who knows? But the point is they are refusing, despite the request of the Governor of Oregon, the Governor of California, the Senators from Oregon, the Senators from California, a large number of Representatives from Oregon and California, we have all requested a disaster declaration, and the White House is silent, and the bureaucrats say "no."

JUDGMENT DAY

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, tonight there is one less brutal murderer in Texas. Angel Maturino Resendiz is gone. He has been executed, ending one of the most brutal reigns of terror a serial killer has ever known.

Some called him the face of death. He rode the rails from Mexico to the heartland of America, leaving a wake of bloodied and mutilated bodies behind him, quickly earning the top ranking of the FBI's most wanted list.

Thanks to the tenacity of Texas Ranger Drew Carter, who captured Resendiz, and the work of the FBI and numerous local law enforcement agencies, justice has occurred. The wanted posters have come down.

Resendiz raped, brutalized, tortured, maimed, and he took the lives of at least nine people, all who live within yards of railroad tracks throughout America. But he stole. He stole the security of citizens everywhere he went. Small town shops sold out of pistols. People who never locked their doors even sealed their windows because of the fear of Resendiz. Resendiz never knew where he was going, never brought anything with him but always knew what he would leave behind, a trail of terror and the darkness of death.

Tonight, much to the dismay of his victims' families, he met a far more peaceful fate than the one he inflicted on a 73-year-old woman. Her last view of Earth was his wicked face and a pickax coming right at her that was lodged in her head and embedded between her eyes. Tonight, Angel Resendiz is gone.

Americans are rid of the beast that pulverized a church secretary's face with a sledgehammer. Then he sexually assaulted her. His death sentence was

for only one single slaying, the rape, stabbing and beating of a Houston doctor whose husband watched the execution tonight, saying people have to understand what evil really is.

Resendiz' sentence was objected to by the Mexican government, who tried to intervene today in U.S. Federal courts to prevent this justice from occurring. The Mexican government instead should pay reparations to the nine families he murdered, since Mexico encourages illegals like him to enter the United States.

Resendiz is accused and suspected of many, many more killings throughout the United States, all tied together with the winding railroad tracks that carried this monster to his chosen chore, committing unspeakable random acts of butchery.

Tonight, Texas and the rest of the country, they are safer. The man who considered himself half man and half angel was neither. He was not half angel. He was totally a demon. Tonight, he has met his judgment day.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RESET OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE ARMY AND MARINE CORPS

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Missouri is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, before I make my remarks about the readiness of the Army and Marine Corps equipment, I would like you to share my thoughts on the recently released information of a possible plan for troop redeployment in Iraq.

Let me say I am incensed that General Casey's recommendations to the President and Secretary Rumsfeld for possible force redeployments in the coming months were leaked by someone in the administration to The New York Times.

The options presented to the President for the success of our operation there should not be on the front page of a major paper. Such a leak does not benefit considered deliberation of military operatives. It can only serve a political purpose. Members of the Congress overseeing the Department of Defense should have been kept informed of our senior military commander's best thinking in an appropriate forum.

That said, I am pleased to hear that the Iraqis and the American people may be able to begin to see a correlation between increasing numbers and capability of Iraqi battalions and some reduction in American combat power. This is something that I have sug-

gested for some time. This apparent consideration of options could not come at a better time, given the poor readiness posture of the Army and Marine Corps equipment.

Over the last several years, we have seen readiness rates plummet as the operation tempo in Iraq has climbed. Readiness rates for equipment have fallen so far, so far that I fear that now they present a strategic risk to our ability to respond to contingencies we may have faced beyond our current commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 40 percent of the Army and Marine Corps ground equipment is deployed to the Central Command theater. That equipment is suffering terribly due to battle losses and damage and increased operations and harsh climate.

Since the start of the war, the Army has lost over 1,000 wheeled vehicles and nearly 100 armored vehicles. Increased usage and the weight from extra armor are wearing out equipment in Iraq up to nine times the peacetime rate. That means that some equipment has added the equivalent of 27 years worth of wear since the start of the war in Iraq.

To keep this equipment serviceable, the Army and Marines have had to expend extraordinary effort. To their credit, the readiness rates for equipment deployed to Central Command remains high, with spare equipment and repair parts flowing quickly to the fight.

Unfortunately, theater readiness has come at the expense of equipment here in the continental United States. Readiness reporting from non-deployed Army units shows that equipment readiness continues to fall, with very few continental United States units rated as fully mission-capable.

These low mission-capable rates disturb me greatly, as they are an indicator of a military under stress. Non-deployed units are our strategic base. They are the units we will call if a crisis emerges. Looking at these readiness rates, I truly wonder if our military will be able to answer the call should it come.

The cost of all this repair and maintenance is enormous, with the Army spending \$13.5 billion in 2006 alone. General Schoomaker, in his testimony before the Armed Services Committee today, said that the Army will require an astounding \$17 billion next year to reset equipment damaged or destroyed by the war in Iraq. Even more disturbing is that the largest bill for the reset will not come due until after combat operations end. At that point, future budget pressure may make it difficult to forward the reset, leaving us with significant shortfalls of equipment to fill a transforming military.

This Congress has a responsibility to provide for our force for the battles that they are in today and for those that they may have to fight tomorrow. To do that and to budget responsibly, we must know the true and full cost of the bill that will come due.