

creating a more efficient and fair process for providing safe haven to the world's most vulnerable."

We face this continuing challenge without one of the world's most eloquent and effective advocates for the world's refugees. Senator Ted Kennedy led the drive to pass the original Refugee Act of 1980. He was a tireless advocate for the innocent victims of conflict, religious persecution and ethnic hatred. As we approach another World Refugee Day, we would benefit enormously from his leadership, but we can gain inspiration from his example. So long as there are people forced from their homes by war and persecution, this Nation will have a responsibility to act, and the Refugee Protection Act is an important opportunity to do so.

#### UIGHUR PROTESTS IN URUMQI

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, it has been nearly a year since deadly ethnic rioting between ethnic Han Chinese and the native Uighur population engulfed the city of Urumqi in China's vast, far-western region of Xinjiang—one of the worst ethnic clashes in China in decades.

Last year, after the protests began, I spoke on the floor, expressing my concern about human rights abuses and a lack of press freedom in Xinjiang, as demonstrated by the decision by the Chinese government to block access to journalists, which prevented the world from knowing the truth of what was occurring. Unfortunately, it is now clear that things were even worse than we knew at the time.

The Chinese police, the People's Armed Police, and the military responded with a heavy hand, conducting many large-scale sweep operations in two mostly Uighur areas of the city, operations that reportedly continued at least through mid-August of 2009. Internet and text-messaging services were immediately limited or cut off, and were only restored last month, depriving the people of Xinjiang from access to news, information, means of communication, and other benefits of connective technology.

The official death toll from the July 5, 2009, rioting was reportedly 197—though human rights observers say the actual number of casualties is higher. At least 1,700 people were injured, and some 1,500 people, by the government's own account, were detained. According to an insightful article published in the Washington Post this week, as of early March, there have been 25 death sentences among the 198 people officially sentenced. Twenty-three of those 25 were ethnic Uighurs.

The Post, which sent a reporter to Urumqi for a look at the city 1 year after the riots, reports that residents "seem most terrified of talking," and not just with journalists but also with each other. Uniformed and plainclothes police officers are pervasive, the newspaper reports. Most Uighurs are Sunni Muslims, but their religious freedoms

have been sharply curtailed. Economically, they lag well behind the ethnic Han population.

I condemn the continued repression of the Uighurs, as well as the violence perpetrated against all innocent civilians in China, and I call on the Chinese government to bring this reprehensible behavior to an end. I also reiterate my call from last year on the Chinese government to open Internet and mobile phone access, end jamming of international broadcasting, and lift the grave and growing restrictions on the press. If China is going to assume a position of leadership in the international community on par with its economic standing, it must lead by example in granting essential freedoms and human rights to its citizens.

I ask unanimous consent that the Washington Post article entitled "One year later, China's crackdown after Uighur riots haunts a homeland" published on June 15 be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Post Foreign Service, June 15, 2010]

#### ONE YEAR LATER, CHINA'S CRACKDOWN AFTER UIGHUR RIOTS HAUNTS A HOMELAND (By Lauren Keane)

URUMQI, CHINA.—A hulking shell of a department store towers over this city's Uighur quarter, a reminder of what can be lost here by speaking up.

For years, it was the flagship of the business empire of Rebiya Kadeer, an exiled leader and matriarch of the Uighur people. If Chinese government accounts are accurate, she helped instigate fierce ethnic riots that killed hundreds and injured thousands here last July—an accusation she vehemently denies.

Still a prominent landmark even in its ruin, the Rebiya Kadeer Trade Center was partially confiscated by the government in 2006 when Kadeer's son was charged with tax evasion, although tenants were allowed to stay. After the riots, it was shuttered and slated for destruction. The government said the building had failed fire inspections, but it seems in no hurry to set a demolition date.

The forsaken structure makes for an effective deterrent. Last summer's chaos has been replaced with a level of fear that is striking even for one of China's most repressed regions. Residents are afraid of attracting any attention, afraid of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. But they seem most terrified of talking.

"Every single family on this block is missing someone," said Hasiya, a 33-year-old Uighur who asked that her full name not be used. Her younger brother is serving a 20-year prison sentence for stealing a carton of cigarettes during the riots. "Talking about our sorrow might just increase it. So we swallow it up inside."

Fear is not unwarranted here. For years now, those caught talking to journalists have been questioned, monitored and sometimes detained indefinitely. More striking is that residents now say they cannot talk even with one another.

The Turkic-speaking Muslim Uighurs consider Xinjiang their homeland but now make up only 46 percent of the region's population, after decades of government-sponsored migration by China's Han ethnic majority.

The riots started as a Uighur protest over a government investigation into a Uighur-Han brawl at a southern Chinese factory. Several days of violence brought the official death toll to 197, with 1,700 injured, though observers suspect the casualty count to be much higher. Most of the dead were Han, according to authorities. The government officially acknowledged detaining nearly 1,500 people after the riots. As of early March, Xinjiang had officially sentenced 198 people, with 25 death sentences. Of those 25, 23 were Uighur.

The events forced China's national and regional governments to address, at least superficially, taboo issues of ethnic conflict, discrimination and socioeconomic inequality. The central government in April named a different Communist Party secretary for Xinjiang, Zhang Chunxian, who promptly announced that he had "deeply fallen in love with this land." In May, the government announced a new development strategy to pour \$1.5 billion into the region. It also restored full Internet and text-messaging access to the region after limiting or blocking it entirely for 10 months.

The riots "left a huge psychic trauma on the minds of many people of all ethnicities. This fully reflects the great harm done to the Chinese autonomous region by 'splittist' forces," said Wang Baodong, a spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in the United States.

The ability to confront what happened last July, and why, still eludes people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang. White-knuckled, they hold their spoons above steaming bowls of mutton stew, poking nervously at the oily surface. They fiddle with their watchbands until they break. They repeat questions rather than answer them. They glance through doorways, distracted, and shift side to side in their chairs. Summer's full swelter has yet to arrive, but everyone starting to speak to a reporter begins to sweat. One man leaves the table six times in half an hour to rinse the perspiration from his face. He returns unrefreshed.

When asked what changes the riots had brought, Mehmet, a former schoolteacher who resigned last year because he opposed requirements that he teach his Uighur students primarily in Chinese, took a long glance around the room before pointing halfheartedly out the door. "They built a new highway overpass," he said.

Suspicion of fellow citizens is still common throughout China but seems especially acute here. Academics accept interviews only if they can avoid discussing the conflict's lingering effects. An apologetic professor backed out of a planned meeting after his supervisor discovered his plan, called him and threatened his job. A businessman said that he believed government security agents often trained as journalists, and asked how he could be sure that he would not be turned in.

"We're seeing increasingly intrusive modes of control over religious and cultural expression," said Nicholas Bequelin, a Hong Kong-based senior researcher at Human Rights Watch. "They live in fear of being overheard."

The Kadeer Trade Center is at the center of a protracted conflict. The Urumqi government said that compensation talks with tenants were still ongoing, and that it had moved the tenants to a nearby location. A spokesman for Kadeer, who now lives in Fairfax, said she had not been offered compensation.

Although the government says it is striving for stability, getting there is uncomfortable. On a single street near this city's main bazaar, four different types of uniformed police were on patrol one recent day—not counting, of course, an unknown number of

plainclothes security guards. They marched haphazardly along the sidewalks, the different units so numerous that they sometimes collided. Late into the evening, they perched on rickety school desk chairs placed throughout the bazaar, watching. On the corner outside Xinjiang Medical University, armed police in riot gear peered out the windows of an olive green humvee or leaned on riot shields under the afternoon sun.

"It's quiet here on the surface," said Yu Xinqing, 35, a lifelong Han resident of Urumqi whose brother was killed by Uighurs during the riots. He now carries a knife with him everywhere, avoids Uighur businesses and rarely speaks with Uighur neighbors he previously considered friends. He says he is saving money to leave Xinjiang behind for good.

"We don't talk about these things, even within our families," he said. "But our hearts are overwhelmed; we hold back rivers and overturn the seas."

Still, every once in a while, when a resident is safely alone with a neutral observer, months' worth of stifled thinking tumbles out. That was the case for Ablat, a Uighur businessman who sells clothing near the main bazaar; he would not allow his last name to be mentioned. Ablat had been speaking in vague, evasive terms for three hours, and then—ensconced in his car, speeding north out of town—something finally released.

"Give us jobs, stop holding our passports hostage, and let us worship the way we want to," he said. "That would solve these problems. That is all it would take."

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT TABASH

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I wish to extend my thanks to Dr. Robert Tabash for dedicating his career to the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, Palestine. Thanks to his concern for the people of Palestine, Dr. Tabash has created a hospital that is truly an oasis of peace in the troubled region and is a shining example of humanitarian assistance.

Dr. Tabash's work to build an oasis of peace to serve mothers and babies in conflict-torn Palestine has not been an easy road. After serving as a staff physician beginning in 1971, Dr. Tabash was appointed the Director of Administration to the Holy Family Hospital in 1985. That same year the hospital was forced to close due to the Arab-Israeli conflict. After a 5-year renovation period, Dr. Tabash's vision finally came to life when the hospital was inaugurated. That same year, Dr. Tabash saw the first baby born in the new facility. Since, the hospital has successfully delivered over 50,000 newborns. With the only neonatal intensive care unit in the area, Holy Family Hospital has amazingly limited the mortality rate to around 2 percent, on par with Western hospitals and remarkably different than the roughly 30 percent mortality rate found in government-run hospitals in the West Bank.

This impressive success rate with high risk pregnancies and track record for saving premature babies makes the Hospital special. But what makes Holy

Family truly shine is their commitment to serving pregnant women and babies in the West Bank, regardless of religion or race. Despite this commitment, more than 90 percent of Holy Family's patients are Muslim. Backed by U.S. dollars—and I am proud to have secured \$3.5 million for the hospital in 2005—Holy Family not only gives the unborn a chance at life in a troubled part of the world, it also works to dispel the false notions that America is at war with the Muslim world and sides only with the Israeli people.

Holy Family Hospital is one of the most successful and touching examples of Smart Power in the Middle East—where through non-military engagement, like diplomacy, education, and in this case, humanitarian assistance, we can win hearts and minds, a necessary first step to peace.

Dr. Tabash is a Christian Palestinian doctor. Born in Bethlehem himself, it is Dr. Tabash, and his endless devotion to serving the most vulnerable in Bethlehem—pregnant mothers and babies—that has made the hospital the success story it is today. Dr. Tabash is the rare individual who recognizes that the work of one person—every person—can make a difference. Through his work, Dr. Tabash has saved thousands of babies' lives and touched countless more.

On the occasion of Dr. Tabash's retirement I offer gratitude and congratulations for the good Doctor's contributions—to the lives of many mothers and babies and to the long-hoped dream of peace in the Middle East. •

##### NEVADA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Nevada City Fire Department in Nevada City, CA.

The Nevada City Fire Department was formed in June 1860 after a group of local women set up theatrical shows and a ball to raise funds to form a fire department. The fire department began with three fire companies: the Nevada Hose Company No. 1; Eureka Hose Company No. 2; and the Protection Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. In 1861, the first fire station was built to house the volunteer fire departments in downtown Nevada City and had a service area of about 1 square mile.

Over the years, the Nevada City Fire Department has evolved to meet the growing needs of Nevada City. In 1938, a new city hall and fire station were built and, in 1960, the first paid fire chief was hired. Nearly four decades later, in 1999, a new fire station was built to accommodate the department's needs. In 2000, the city hired its first paid fire fighter to staff the fire station during the day and, by 2003, three paid fire fighters were hired to man the fire station 24 hours a day.

Today, the Nevada City Fire Department has 20 employees serving over 3,000 residents with three fire engines and two fire stations. They respond to

over 500 calls for service every year in their 2 square mile service area, and assist on calls from mutual aid areas including wild land fires on national forest land.

As the community celebrates the Nevada City Fire Department's sesquicentennial anniversary, I would like to congratulate and thank all of the brave men and women of the Nevada City Fire Department who have proudly served their community over the past 150 years. •

##### AUGUSTA STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S GOLF TEAM

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Augusta State University men's golf team on their historic NCAA Championship win last week.

On June 6, 2010, Augusta State beat Oklahoma State 3-3-1 in the championship match of the 112th NCAA Division I Championships.

ASU's Henrik Norlander, Patrick Reed, Mitch Krywulycz, Taylor Floyd and Carter Newman had already defeated No. 3 Georgia Tech and the No. 2 Florida State to bring them to the championship. All that was left now was Oklahoma State, the No. 1 team in the country.

The win seemed unlikely. Oklahoma State was not only ranked higher, but had more funding, more experience and more championship titles. They were giants in the golf world.

In addition, Taylor Floyd was sick. So sick, that it seemed as though he couldn't play.

But Augusta State was determined. They had tried to win 11 times before this and failed. This was their year to win.

So, at the Honors Course just north of Chattanooga, TN, ASU did just that. Its win was not only the first NCAA championship title in Augusta State's history, but also marked the team's 10th straight top-five finish of the season.

And they deserved to win. Throughout the tournament they played with heart, played with courage and played with sportsmanship. They became giants on that course.

They not only made Augusta State proud but the Augusta and the State of Georgia proud.

But no one could be prouder than ASU's head coach Josh Gregory. As tears pooled in his eyes, he said, "This means everything. This is a dream come true, and they are incredible players."

Gregory's commitment and dedication to his team has resulted in four NCAA championships appearances, the most by any coach in school history.

We can all be inspired by the story of this small school and its struggle to victory. Its hard work and perseverance is unparalleled, and I am grateful that they have represented our state so well.

Once again, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Augusta State