

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

Mr. REID. Madam President, today I rise to honor and commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Las Vegas News Bureau. Since its inception in 1947, the News Bureau has captured photos and videos of the colorful history of Las Vegas. Community leaders started the News Bureau as a way to generate publicity for Las Vegas through the use of photography and film, and in doing so, they preserved the history of the city.

The News Bureau has been at the forefront of documenting and publicizing Las Vegas as the world's leading destination for decades. Over the years, they have captured memorable moments of some of Vegas's most famous entertainers, illustrated the growth of the iconic skyline, and archived the scenic imagery of the surrounding Las Vegas landscape.

Amidst their archives, the News Bureau captured unforgettable moments of show biz legends and Las Vegas regulars, like Elvis, Liberace, Wayne Newton, and Frank Sinatra, among others. The archive also houses historical moments such as President Kennedy's trip to visit the troops at the Nevada Test Site, where the atomic bomb was detonated during the 1950s and 1960s. And alongside the many photographs of celebrities and familiar faces are millions of photos documenting the various parades, events, and tourists that helped make Las Vegas the thriving destination that it remains today.

The Las Vegas News Bureau plays a unique role in marketing southern Nevada as a one-of-a-kind destination. Their iconic images of Las Vegas provide a competitive advantage that helps distinguish Las Vegas from other destinations, while also acting as an invaluable resource to journalists and historians alike. The unforgettable pictures of the neon lights of historic Fremont Street and glamorous images of Las Vegas show biz are more than just pieces of Las Vegas history: They represent what made Las Vegas the universally renowned city that it is today.

For the past 65 years, the News Bureau has chronicled the rise of Las Vegas into the Entertainment Capital of the World. I am proud to recognize their accomplishments before the Senate today, and I know that they will continue to tell the story of Las Vegas for years to come.

FOOD EMERGENCY

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today I wish to submit for the RECORD my remarks and a speech by Taiwan's top diplomat in Washington, Jason C. Yuan, of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office, who announced on April 25, 2012, the donation by his government of 1,150 metric tons of rice to Kenya through Feed the Children, a well-known and respected charity based in my home State of Oklahoma.

The food emergency in the Horn of Africa is a stark humanitarian crisis and Kenya simply has not received enough rain to feed its people. Record-high food prices, internal conflicts, and insecurity in the region have exacerbated the situation. With malnutrition and disease on the rise, many Kenyan families are required to travel long distances in search of food. It is evident that outside help must be provided.

The people of Taiwan are providing that help. Its generous gift will have an immediate impact on relieving the hardships brought on by this first drought of the 21st century.

Ronald Reagan once said that "a hungry child knows no politics," meaning that the American people are always willing to open up their hearts and the blessings of their bounty to the less fortunate around the world. The people of Taiwan are doing the same thing today through this generous donation.

Some may say that this gracious donation of rice is a mere drop in the bucket compared to the overall need in Africa. Yet one must remember that every mighty wave starts with a tiny ripple.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD remarks from Ambassador Jason C. Yuan.

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

AMBASSADOR JASON C. YUAN'S REMARKS AT
THE TWIN OAKS ESTATE
APRIL 25, 2012

Mr. Steve Whetstone, Congressman Dan Burton, Ms. Barbara Schrage of AIT/W, Mr. Mark Powers and Ms. Kiersten Powers of Senator James Inhofe's Office, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

On behalf of my government, I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the Republic of China (Taiwan), in cooperation with the Red Cross of the Republic of China and Feed the Children have decided to form an alliance to donate 1,150 metric tons of rice to Kenya, a country currently suffering a famine. This partnership will allow the rice donation from Taiwan to be distributed with the help of FTC in refugee camps, to ongoing relief efforts in Turkana and to primary schools in Mombasa, Kenya.

Feed the Children is one of the largest international charities, with its headquarters in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and based on Christian values. It has been dedicated to providing hope and resources for those without life's essentials throughout the United States and the world for decades.

Taiwan and FTC have associated in the past and successfully cooperated in 2005 to

deliver 10,000 metric tons of rice to the tsunami ravaged areas in Indonesia. In 2006 Taiwan donated 52 containers of new clothing to FTC worth approximately US \$17.6 million, which were later distributed to more than 16,000 children, orphans, elderly, abandoned and others in need in 11 countries (Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Armenia, and Ukraine). In 2007, Taiwan donated 5,000 metric tons of rice to Kenya and 5,000 metric tons of rice to Malawi through FTC, to help people in those two countries suffering from famine. In 2011, Taiwan donated 100 metric tons of rice to restart the Mombasa Kenya School Feeding Program, benefiting 27,000 children for 2 school terms.

Enhancing Taiwan's contributions to international development is one of the three lines of defense that President Ma Ying-jeou has outlined for the ROC's national security. As a maturing democracy and thriving economy, Taiwan has been shouldering our own responsibilities in the world. Humanitarian work has become an especially important platform for Taiwan's contributions to the international community. Taiwan's democracy and economic prosperity have combined to give rise to a vibrant society of numerous non-profit organizations. In almost every major disaster relief program that has occurred in the world recently, Taiwan has been an important contributor, whether this meant providing financial aid to help rebuild homes in Sichuan, or giving life-sustaining medical aid to Haitian children. Taiwan was also one of the first to arrive with emergency relief supplies and rescue teams when Japan was struck by the triple disaster of an earthquake, tsunami and nuclear incident. In fact, Taiwan ended up donating more than US \$200 million to the Japanese people.

Last week, President Ma just wrapped up a 12-day official visit to Burkina Faso, Gambia and Swaziland, our three allies in Africa. Pursuing a policy of viable diplomacy that requires that all foreign assistance must be justified, legitimate and efficient, President Ma announced a donation of US \$2.1 million worth of support to Mali refugee assistance efforts in Burkina Faso, and US \$3 million to emergency food programs in Gambia. The project "A Lamp Lighting up Africa" also helps the students of our West African allies study at night with LED lamps.

The Republic of China used to be a country that received economic assistance from other countries, particularly the United States. Now that we are better off, the least we can do is to help other people in need. So we look forward to future cooperation with Feed the Children or other NGOs in the United States for the good cause. Thank you!

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN ECUADOR

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, May 3 was World Press Freedom Day. In this country, we recognize freedom of expression as our most cherished right. It forms the foundation for every other freedom, and an independent press is essential to its exercise. Yet in many countries expression is often censored and punished. Journalists are threatened, imprisoned, and killed for exposing official corruption and criticizing government repression. Not only is the media targeted and silenced, the entire population is denied access to accurate reporting.

The Senate was in recess on May 3, but I would like to call other Senators'

attention to troubling events that currently pose one of the gravest threats to freedom of expression in this hemisphere. I am speaking about the actions of Ecuador's President Rafael Correa and officials in his government to silence independent broadcasters and publishers and watchdog organizations, undermining the fundamental right of free expression in ways that resemble what we have come to expect in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela.

There is no institution more fundamental to democracy than a free and independent press. A free press helps protect the rule of law, to ensure that no person or group is above the rules and procedures that govern a democratic society. A free press helps ensure transparency to prod governments to be honest and accountable to their citizens.

Unfortunately, recent events in Ecuador suggest a deliberate shift away from these democratic traditions, and this could pose grave consequences for democracy in Ecuador.

Although wavering at times, Ecuador has a history of democratic government of which its citizens can be proud. Ecuador's first Constitution, written in 1830, stipulated that "every citizen can express their thoughts and publish them freely through the press." Ecuador's 1998 Constitution guarantees the right of journalists and social communicators to "seek, receive, learn, and disseminate" events of general interest, with the goal of "preserving the values of the community." Even Ecuador's latest constitution, ratified just four years ago, protects each citizen's right "to voice one's opinion and express one's thinking freely and in all of its forms and manifestations." However, it appears that these protections—a vital part of Ecuador's history of democratically elected, representative government—now only apply at the discretion of President Correa.

During President Correa's term in office, the number of state-owned media organizations has exploded—growing from just one government-run news outlet to a media conglomerate that today is made up of more than a dozen outlets. He has pursued criminal charges against columnists and newspaper owners, including legal actions aimed at *El Universo*, one of Ecuador's most respected newspapers. In the *El Universo* case, President Correa won a \$42 million award, and several journalists were sentenced to 3 years in prison following a hearing before a temporary—and recently appointed—magistrate. Although President Correa later pardoned the journalists, an Ecuadoran court rejected his pardon, and their fates remain unresolved. The fear of being charged and dragged through the expensive legal system also silences many other journalists or compels them to temper criticism of the government.

President Correa and his government are not only targeting journalists. Some 200 activists, many of them in-

digenous people protesting environmentally destructive mining projects, have been criminally charged and detained. The pattern of arresting or threatening to arrest social activists has suppressed the free flow of information in Ecuador, silencing dissenting voices either by legal action or self-censorship.

Perhaps most insidious to the principles of democracy, President Correa's government has ushered in new reforms that could make illegal almost all reporting about electoral campaigns. All censorship is bruising to a democracy, but electoral censorship is a fatal blow. With Presidential elections occurring in Ecuador in the next year, there is growing concern that President Correa's actions represent an attempt to influence the democratic process to his own political and personal benefit.

Dr. Catalina Botero, the special rapporteur for freedom of expression at the Organization of American States, OAS, has rightly criticized President Correa's crusade against the press. In response, President Correa has expanded his campaign of censorship beyond Ecuador's borders and targeted Dr. Botero's office, proposing to the OAS earlier this year a plan that would have restricted the ability of Dr. Botero's office to issue independent reports and cutting off some of its funding. Although the plan was rejected by the member states of the OAS, President Correa's intent remains clear. No longer content to silence his political opponents in Ecuador, he is now targeting his critics elsewhere.

President Correa has tried to cloak his actions in populist vocabulary, declaring that his censorship is motivated by a desire to free the public from the corrupt interests of the business organizations that often ran newspapers before the establishment of a law forbidding anyone with a significant stake in a media company from owning other businesses. Challenging viewpoints expressed in the media of course is legitimate, common, and healthy in any society, but preventing those views from being heard is not.

Mr. President, we should denounce attacks on the press in Ecuador and elsewhere in this hemisphere. We should strongly support Dr. Botero and her office. Protecting freedom of expression, a fundamental right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man is everyone's concern and responsibility. In doing so, we stand with the people of Ecuador and their right to be heard and for the future of their democracy.

WAR IN BOSNIA

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, as we consider the many important issues currently before us, I believe it is worthwhile for us also to pause and recall past events that remain relevant to our work today.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a long-time member and Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I would like to remind my colleagues that it was approximately 20 years ago that the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina began. While seeking to find a peaceful path out of the Yugoslavia which was collapsing around it, Bosnia and its people instead became chief victims of the clearly senseless violence associated with that collapse.

The ethnic cleansing of villages and the shelling of Sarajevo which we first saw in April 1992 were horrific, and little did we know how much worse things would get in subsequent months and years. It was in July and August of 1992 that we first saw the shocking pictures of the detainees in Omarska and other camps run by nationalist, militant Serbs, in northeastern Bosnia. The next year, we saw Croat militants destroy the famous bridge in Mostar for which the city got its name. In 1995, we saw Srebrenica before and after the genocide in which 8,000 people, mostly men and boys, perished.

While the United States and its friends and allies brought the conflict in Bosnia to an end with the Dayton Agreement in 1995, the action we took came too late for those who were ethnically cleansed and displaced, those who were tortured or raped, and those who were injured or killed. It is never too late, however, to provide justice. I am glad that people like Slobodan Milosevic, Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic and all others indicted for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide were apprehended and transferred to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. I am also glad that the United States and some other countries persevered to make this happen despite the resistance to cooperation and the protection afforded these individuals. I want to thank my colleagues who joined me in supporting justice in Bosnia as a matter of U.S. policy.

I think it is important not only to remember the victims and culprits of the conflict in Bosnia but also to remember the heroes. There were those who opposed extreme nationalism and aggression against neighbors. I particularly want to note the small group of human rights advocates and democratic forces in Serbia who opposed what Milosevic was doing allegedly in their name, even when he appeared to be getting away with it. I have met some of these courageous individuals over the years, including last July when I visited Belgrade, and they are truly inspiring people.

Today, Bosnia has recovered from the more than 3 years of brutal, destructive conflict that started 2 decades ago, and the country aspires to join both NATO and the European Union. I believe it is important that we support the people of Bosnia and their desires for integration by holding firm against the lingering forces of ethnic exclusivity, which remain particularly