

banks that received taxpayer help but then attacked middle-class auto workers. Bonuses and huge salaries have continued unabated for far too many Wall Street executives. Yet some of my colleagues have said that auto workers' retirement—union and nonunion retirement—and health care and wages were simply too much. Let's be clear. Ohio would be in a depression if these naysayers had their way and let the auto industry collapse or let it "go bankrupt." It was about rescuing middle-class workers, and it was about fueling the next generation of U.S. automakers and auto manufacturing.

Ohio is home to an almost completely Ohio-made automobile, the Chevy Cruze. Its engine was made in Defiance, the transmission in Toledo, the sound system in Springboro, the steel in Middletown, the underpinning steel in Cleveland, and the aluminum wheels in Cleveland. The car is stamped in Parma, OH. The Chevy Cruze is assembled in Youngstown, OH. The Jeep Wrangler had only 50 percent America-made components 4 years ago. The Jeep Wrangler and the Jeep Liberty are assembled in Toledo, now made with more than 70 percent U.S.-made parts.

When things looked bleak and when nobody wanted to stand with workers or auto companies, we didn't give up on American auto companies or American manufacturing. The decision wasn't popular, and there were clearly some naysayers. But it was the right thing to do.

Our work is far from over. In particular, we have to keep our foot on the gas pedal and fight back against China's unfair trade practices and other new threats to our auto industry. Our trade deficit in auto parts with China—the parts that are obviously used, that you buy at various retail operations to fix your car when something goes wrong—grew from about \$1 billion 10 years ago to about \$10 billion today, fed by unfair subsidies, currency manipulation, and illegal dumping of Chinese products. This is an unlevel, tilted playing field that will cost hundreds of thousands of jobs.

My China currency manipulation bill—the biggest bipartisan jobs bill to have passed the Senate this session—costing taxpayers zero, would level the playing field for American manufacturers when China tries to cheat by manipulating its currency. A recently released report shows that addressing Chinese currency manipulation could support the creation of hundreds of thousands of American jobs—without adding a dime to the deficit. It is time to take bold action and stand up to China, and it is time to put American workers and businesses first. We did it in 2008 and 2009. The Presiding Officer played a role in that, as did so many in this body. We can do it again if our colleagues in the other Chamber take up this currency bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may speak as in morning business.

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

ARREST OF JORGE LUIS GARCIA "ANTUNEZ"

PEREZ

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor outraged that following a hearing that I held as chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee entitled "The Path to Freedom: Countering Repression and Supporting Civil Society in Cuba," after testimony from Cuba of Jorge Luis Garcia Perez, known as "Antunez"—and this is a picture taken from that video feed—he was taken into custody by the Castro regime this weekend, arrested, and beaten unconscious.

This is the account of his wife, Yris Tamara Perez Aguilera, who provided this account to Radio Republic, an independent radio station in Miami that she was able to call so that she could denounce what was taking place and let the world know what was happening. Here is the exact statement that she gave the radio station:

My name is Yris Tamara Perez Aguilera, wife of Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez, a former political prisoner—

—a former political prisoner who spent 17 years of his life in Castro's prison simply because of his peaceful pro-democracy action.

This Saturday, June 9, my husband, together with Loreto Hernandez Garcia and Jonniel Rodriguez Riverol, after a brutal beating by the part of the political police—[that is State security]—were transferred to the precinct here in Placeta. All this occurred around 3:30 in the afternoon.

After this, at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, we—Yaite Cruz Sosa, Dora Perez Correa, Arturo Conde Zamora, and myself, Yris Tamara Perez Aguilera, left for the police precinct to bring my husband clothing since he was taken away in shorts, since he stepped outside [of his home] to call Damaris Moya Portieles, who was currently on hunger strike. After leaving about one block away from my house, I was intercepted by a police officer, who arrested me where I was once again beaten by Police Officer Isachi, ordered by the Chief of Confrontation of the municipality of Placetax, better known as Corporal Pantera.

I was handcuffed and driven to the police precinct. Upon arriving to the precinct, once again Officer Isachi, one of the main oppressors here in Placetax—[that is a town in Cuba]—of the ill-named National Revolutionary Police, strikes my head very strongly, where once again my cervical vertebrae was damaged.

At that point, the screams of my husband, Loreto, Jonniel, and the prisoners there who said, "Stop hitting her. Stop hitting her, you abusers; can't you see she's a woman?" Then a military garrison officer approached the cells where my husband and the other prisoners were pepper-sprayed. When they were pepper-sprayed, my husband lost consciousness due to lack of air. Thanks to the activist Yaite Cruz Sosa, whom stood nearby, emptied a bucket of water on his face and fanned him with a jacket until he regained consciousness.

My husband, arounds 7 p.m., cried from his cell, "Yris, they're taking me away, Yris, they're taking me away." I was not able to

speak because of the terrible headache from all the beatings I took to the head. He said to me, "The special brigade put me on a chain of prisoners to take me from the cell and place me on a bus; I don't know where they are taking me."

She goes on to say:

I am very worried about what may happen to my husband. He has heart problems, and that pepper spray, as many know, is toxic and may bring bad consequences since my husband has a blocked artery and vein, and I am afraid for his life. Furthermore, my husband is currently missing.

I don't know my husband's whereabouts. I was freed yesterday [Sunday, June 10, 2012] in the afternoon, and I was given no information as to where I could find my husband.

I lay the responsibility of what may happen to my husband on the government. I know they took reprisal against him for his participation in congress. In these moments, I am leaving for Santa Clara, and together with me, I have Yaite Cruz Sosa. I am going to the State Security Forces and they must tell me where I can find my husband so I can bring him his affairs.

That is the end of her statement.

Mr. Antunez spent 17 years of his life in Castro's jail simply for fomenting peaceful democracy efforts, an effort to create a civil society. We had asked him to testify before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Western Hemisphere Subcommittee's hearing on moving toward democracy in Cuba, and at personal risk he traversed from where he lives—a countryside—on foot to make it to the intrasection. We knew that his willingness to testify was a risk, and so we did not put his name on the committee's notice until he arrived at the intrasection, so that we then amended the notice to the public so that he could be safe because we knew that, as others we invited to testify who were stopped and could not make it to the hearing, that if we talked about Mr. Antunez coming before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee via a video feed, he would likely not make it.

He testified before the committee about the Castro regime's abuses and beatings. He told us that day—among many other things—before the hearing that he witnessed the death of Antonio Ruiz in the city of Santa Clara, where prodemocracy peaceful activists had gathered. He said:

I had to walk many kilometers behind trees and bushes, as if I was some type of criminal, to attend an event that in any other free and democratic country in the world would be an everyday occurrence.

He went on to say at the hearing that, at the very moment he was there testifying before us, an Afro-Cuban woman had been on a hunger strike for several days in Santa Clara because state security had threatened to sexually assault and rape her 6-year-old daughter as punishment for her prodemocracy actions.

This is the life inside of Castro's Cuba—not the romanticism some people talk about. This is the life of those who struggle as human rights activists and political dissidents simply to create a space for civil society inside of

the country. This is the cost paid by one man willing to come forward to put his life on the line, to share his efforts for libertad in Cuba with this institution, the U.S. Senate.

Mr. President, our response must be unparalleled. The arrest and beating of Antunez—clearly as a direct result of his Senate testimony—is further proof of the continuing brutality of the Castro brothers' regime and further evidence of the need for the United States and other democratic nations to stand against tyrants and realize that the nature of this regime won't be altered by increasing tourist travel to the island, expanding agricultural trade, or by providing visas for regime officials to come and tour the United States.

Today I am calling on the U.S. State Department to cease providing any nonessential visas for travel to the United States by Cuban officials.

In the last months, the Department has authorized visas for a stream of Cuban regime officials to visit the United States, starting with Josefina Vidal, Cuba's director for North American affairs in April, whose husband was kicked out of the U.N. mission in New York, and most recently for the daughter of Cuba's dictator Raul Castro, the same dictator that sends these rapid-response brigades, which is state security dressed as civilians, to attack innocent civilians like this.

Mariela Castro Espin comes here to the United States with her friends to attend the Latin-American Studies Association conference. While Cuba holds an American hostage, Allen Gross, and is engaged in what has been described as the "highest monthly number of documented arrests in five decades," when well over 1,000 arrests are made of peaceful activists, Mariela Castro has been parading around the United States on a publicity tour describing herself as a "dissidente." I don't know from what she is a dissident.

Enough is enough. Why should Mariela Castro be allowed to openly spout her Communist vitriol while a real leader of the Cuban people, Mr. Antunez, who sought to convey his message to Americans through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is forced to clandestinely make his way to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana to talk and then be beaten and jailed simply because of what he said in an open hearing?

Why should Josefina Vidal be allowed to host meetings with regime sympathizers in the United States while an American citizen, Alan Gross, sits as a hostage in a Cuban jail for doing nothing but trying to assist the island's small Jewish community in creating access to the Internet so they are able to communicate with each other?

I am also calling on the U.N. Commission on Human Rights and the U.N. Committee Against Torture, which last week on its own called on Cuba to answer for its dramatic increase in politically motivated arrests, to immediately investigate this incident. Make

no mistake, this was not a random bureaucratic arrest, not a random act of violence by thugs of the regime. It was an in-your-face exercise of the most brutal kind intended to send a message to the United States and the Senate.

During the course of the hearing I chaired, I noticed there were members of the Cuban Interests Section; members of the Castro regime—we are a democracy, so we allow them to come to hearings such as ours—who were taking copious notes of everything that was going on. I made it clear we would be watching for any retribution against any witness from inside Cuba.

Cuba's leaders heard that message loudly and clearly and their beating and arrest of Antunez was their response to the Senate.

This was a deliberate violation of human rights, in my view, ordered at the highest levels of the regime as punishment simply because Antunez had the courage to speak truth to power.

Enough. Enough violent repression in Cuba. Enough beatings of those who seek nothing more than freedom to speak out and tell the truth. Enough abuse. Enough imprisonment.

What more evidence do we need of the tragedies of daily life inside Cuba for those who are peaceful, prodemocracy, human rights advocates, political dissidents, and independent journalists as we saw here? What more evidence do we need? How much more can we forget? I find my friends in Hollywood have all kinds of great things to say about the Castro brothers, but what about this? What about the 1,000 who were arrested and are languishing in Castro's jails? What about those who die on hunger strikes as a result of their peaceful protest for the abuse they are going through? The silence is deafening.

Let's stand for Jorge Luis Garcia Perez, who knew what might happen when he agreed to testify before our committee. His determination to put Cuba on a path to freedom is what gave him the strength and the courage—in the face of what he knew a brutal dictatorship could do and would do—to come forward and tell us his story, which is the story of a repressed people waiting for freedom. The courage of thousands and thousands of men and women on the streets of Havana, in the countryside across the island is what we can never forget in our dealings with the dictatorial, repressive regime that has ruled Cuba since the middle of the last century.

Still today, 23 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, these Cubans remain trapped in a closed society, cut off from the advancements of the world—repressed, threatened, fearful of saying or doing something that will land them in prison, often for years—years. Imagine an American citizen, protesting outside the Capitol, thinking that could get them put in a gulag for 10, 15 or 20 years. That is what these people are going through. They land in prison, are beaten until they are unconscious.

Yet the silence is deafening. It is unconscionable.

I urge each and every one of us in this institution, if we cherish the ability in this institution to have the free flow of testimony from anyone in the world without reprisal, to be outraged about what happened with the beating of Mr. Antunez and his imprisonment. I urge every American to remember Mr. Antunez today. I urge every American to remember all the victims of the Castro brothers, just as we remember all those around the world who have suffered and died under the iron fist of other repressive dictatorships.

As I have said many times before, the Cuban people are no less deserving of America's support than the millions who were imprisoned and forgotten at other times around the world—lost to their families, left to die for nothing more than a single expression of dissent. I am compelled to ask again today, as I have before, as I did at the hearing, why is there such an obvious double standard when it comes to Cuba?

I am amazed at colleagues who come and talk about repression, brutality, beatings, and the imprisonment of average citizens around the globe. Yet they are silent, silent, silent about Cuba. We are willing to tighten sanctions in other places around the world, but we let a repressive regime in Cuba basically walk away.

It is not time to forget. It is not time to forget Mr. Antunez, who was willing to risk his life to give testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It is not time to forget Alan Gross, an American citizen, who for over 2 years—over 2 years—has been sitting in Castro's jail, sick, his mother dying, his wife and family desperately needing him. What was his crime? His crime was trying to help the Jewish people in Havana talk to each other. We can't forget Alan Gross. We can't forget those who suffered and died at the hands of the dictators. We can't forget the arrest and beating of Antunez, clearly as a result of his testimony—proof positive of the continuing brutality of the Castro brothers.

I hope we can shock the conscience of any Member of the Senate who would want to hear any witness, anywhere around the world, give testimony about an oppressive regime, to come forth to speak and give insight about what is happening in their country and to not face retaliation against them. If the Senate speaks with a powerful voice in this respect, it can maybe save Mr. Antunez's life, and it can send a message to the world that we will not tolerate the beating and imprisonment and near death of those who are willing to come and testify before us.

I think the integrity of the Senate is at stake in terms of how we respond. I hope—I hope—silence will not be the response.

With that, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. 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 ROTARY CLUB OF LOUISVILLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Rotary Club of Louisville, which is celebrating its 100th year of service to the Louisville community this year. Chartered on July 22, 1912, it has left Louisville, the State of Kentucky, and our Nation better off thanks to its efforts over the past century.

The Rotary Club of Louisville was the first Rotary Club in Kentucky and the 45th worldwide, welcoming members from 10 regional States. Today, between 450 and 490 Louisville-area residents are members of this organization.

In its early years, the Rotary Club of Louisville engaged in several local service initiatives. One of the club's first major projects was to restore the burial place of President Zachary Taylor, a Louisville native. In 1918, members established a student-loan fund for young men at Male High School and Manual High School during World War I. When radio was in its infancy, a weekly radio program was broadcast by the Louisville Rotary Club in 1922 and 1923. In the flood of 1937, members of the club assisted in cleanup and repair throughout the State.

During the World War II era, the Louisville Rotary Club expanded its outreach to the world, fundraising for the war effort and working with defense-related agencies. Many of the club's members also served in the Armed Forces. After the war, notable accomplishments included the building of George Rogers Clark Park, as well as founding the Harelip and Cleft Palate Foundation.

In 1953, the Louisville Rotary Club began its time-proven training for new members, or "Yearlings," which is still used today, and the following year, the Club adopted the Rotary International Constitution. In 1987, the historically male club admitted its first female member, Patricia W. Hart, the Club's executive director. Also in 1987, members of the club donated \$137,000 to the Rotary International program to eliminate polio worldwide.

The Rotary Club of Louisville has created several awards to honor its members for their contributions. In 1975, Howard Fitch was recognized as the club's first Paul Harris Fellow for his contribution to the Rotary International Foundation. Today, there are 275 Paul Harris Fellows. In 1991, the Rotarian of the Year Award was started, and in 1999, the "Lifetime Service Award" was established and first awarded to Henry Heuser Sr., posthumously.

In recent years, members of the Louisville Club volunteer locally by providing career guidance for high-school seniors and graduates and a mentoring program for high-school students. Along with this, members regularly work as bell-ringers for the Salvation Army. Internationally, the club works with student-exchange programs and various diverse scholarships, including the Ambassadorial Scholarship Competition, the International Scholarship Competition, and the Kentucky Rotary Youth International Exchange.

In 1996, the "Saving Lives Worldwide Program" was created to collect and deliver U.S. medical supplies to the world's poorest countries. During its first 8 years, this program completed 17 shipments valued at \$4 million to 10 developing countries, including Nicaragua, Latvia, Nepal, Romania, Panama, Ecuador, Belize, and Ghana. Along with this, the Louisville Rotary Club has worked with clubs internationally to open six new dental clinics in Panama, Ecuador, and Nepal.

The Rotary Club of Louisville has created the Rotary Leadership Fellows Program, which identifies individuals early in their careers with the potential to become community leaders. These individuals are then invited to participate in a 3-year Rotary Leadership Development Program.

In honor of the club's centennial celebration, the Promise Scholarship program has been initiated to provide hundreds of high-school graduates with grant money to help pay for college tuition.

The past 100 years have seen the Louisville Rotary Club meet and exceed the Rotary International credo of "Service Above Self." It is an honor to represent here in the U.S. Senate so many civic-minded Kentuckians of goodwill who understand the value of public service. I would ask my Senate colleagues to join me in recognizing the Rotary Club of Louisville for its 100 years of service to the Louisville community, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and the world.

EXTENDING FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the Select Committee on Intelligence has just reported a bill that would extend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 for 5 more years. I voted against this extension in the Intelligence Committee's markup because I believe that Congress

does not have enough information about this law's impact on the privacy of law-abiding American citizens, and because I am concerned about a loophole in the law that could allow the government to effectively conduct warrantless searches for Americans' communications. Consistent with my own longstanding policy and Senate rules, I am announcing with this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that it is my intention to object to any request to pass this bill by unanimous consent.

I will also explain my reasoning a bit further, in case it is helpful to any colleagues who are less familiar with this issue. Over a decade ago the intelligence community identified a problem: surveillance laws designed to protect the privacy of people inside the United States were sometimes making it hard to collect the communications of people outside the United States. The Bush administration's solution to this problem was to set up a warrantless wiretapping program, which operated in secret for a number of years. When this program became public several years ago many Americans—myself included—were shocked and appalled. Many Members of Congress denounced the Bush administration for this illegal and unconstitutional act.

However, Members of Congress also wanted to address the original problem that had been identified, so in 2008 Congress passed a law modifying the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA. The purpose of this 2008 legislation was to give the government new authorities to collect the communications of people who are believed to be foreigners outside the United States, while still preserving the privacy of people inside the United States.

Specifically, the central provision in the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 added a new section to the original FISA statute, now known as section 702. As I said, section 702 was designed to give the government new authorities to collect the communications of people who are reasonably believed to be foreigners outside the United States. Because section 702 does not involve obtaining individual warrants, it contains language specifically intended to limit the government's ability to use these new authorities to deliberately spy on American citizens.

The bill contained an expiration date of December 2012, and the purpose of this expiration date was to force Members of Congress to come back in a few years and examine whether these new authorities had been interpreted and implemented as intended. Before Congress votes this year to renew these authorities it is important to understand how they are working in practice, so that Members of Congress can decide whether the law needs to be modified or reformed.

In particular, it is important for Congress to better understand how many people inside the United States have