

named Asia Bibi; she is on death row for the crime, some say, of blasphemy. Others say she never said a word. She is really on death row for being a Christian. She has been there for 5 years. I say Pakistan shouldn't get any American money and that no taxpayer money should go to countries that are persecuting Christians.

In the Sudan, another country that receives money from the American taxpayer, Meriam Ibrahim is on death row for the crime of changing religion. She married a man who is a Christian. She is now being detained. She tried to escape recently. She was redetained.

The only thing that is consistent about foreign aid is that it continues to flow, regardless of restriction, regardless of window dressing to say, Oh, if a country does this, we will take it back. It never happens. Our foreign aid, our hard-earned American tax dollars continue to flow to these countries, no matter what their behavior is.

So two weeks ago I came to the floor and I said, in Israel Hamas is now joining with the Palestinian Authority. Hamas is a terrorist group that does not recognize Israel and attacks Israel on a routine basis. Now that they will be part of a unity government, they will be receiving foreign aid from America. So I said, for goodness sakes, would we not want restrictions on this aid? Would we not want to say that our money shouldn't flow to Hamas?

They should have to recognize Israel's right to exist. They should have to renounce violence. On a daily basis they lob missiles from Gaza into Israel. Yet in the Foreign Relations Committee only one other Member had the guts to vote against this foreign aid, because foreign aid is so entrenched in our national psyche that it goes on regardless of the behavior.

Now, some will say: There are rules. If Hamas becomes a big part of this government, they won't get any money. Guess what. Hamas can read. They have read our legislation. They are purposely setting up their unity government to evade our restrictions.

There are already people who say the President has a waiver. So in my legislation, the Stand With Israel Act, we would get rid of the Presidential waiver and say that if Hamas joins a government with the Palestinian Authority, they should get no American taxpayer money. I said this two weeks ago. The Democrats said: No, President Obama doesn't want to give up the authority to continue sending money to these countries.

A week ago we had another disaster. In Israel three young teenagers were killed: Gilad Shaar, Eyal Yifrah, and Naftali Fraenkel, who was also an American citizen as well—killed in cold blood.

Do you know what the response of Hamas was? To stand up and cheer. In fact, I can give you the direct response of Hamas. Khaled Meshal, their political director, said: "Blessed be the hands that capture them." They stood

with glee and cheered when these three teenage boys were killed in cold blood. These were not soldiers, these were civilians.

The news reports are that Hamas has joined this unity government precisely because they are bankrupt. They want to get our money. That is why they are joining the unity government.

What is ours? Ours is the tepid "oh, please don't behave that way." But we have no teeth. The same thing has happened in Egypt, the same thing in Pakistan, country after country. The only consistent is the money never stops and the behavior never changes.

Some will argue that foreign aid is a way to project American power. Well, if it is, we ought to be projecting American values. We should project what America stands for. We should not be saying: Here is some money. Do with it what you will.

So this has real teeth. This act is called the Stand with Israel Act. It says: No money to terrorists, no money to Hamas unless they are willing to give up the war and begin to find peaceful means of coexisting.

So this evening I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 2265 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I want to say that I appreciate so much the point of view the Senator from Kentucky brings to the committee and his focus on foreign aid. No doubt there are issues relative to aid to many countries around the world that we need to be looking at. This is an issue, though, that I really believe the committee itself should deal with first.

While I appreciate his desire to deal with this and bring it directly to the floor, on behalf of myself and the chairman of the committee, I am going to object, but I am going to object because I really would like for this issue to be heard in an appropriate way—this issue and many others the great Senator has brought forth on the floor today.

I thank him for his concern. I thank him for the issues he has brought up. I hope the committee itself will deal with this important issue, as it should, through regular order. For that reason, I object to this particular unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. 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.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I was proud to be an original cosponsor for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, which protects American women against violence and human trafficking. I am especially proud of the tribal provisions we included in VAWA, which are critical because nearly 40 percent of American Indian women will endure domestic violence in their lifetime, compared to 24 percent in the general population. VAWA ensures that violence prevention programs receive strong Federal funding and gives law enforcement powerful tools to fight violence and trafficking.

Violence against women is not just a problem in the United States; it is a challenge around the world. That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of the International Violence Against Women Act.

One key step to empowering women around the world is through access to education. Unfortunately, for many young women around the world today, educational opportunities are limited. According to the United Nations, only 35 percent of young women in Sub-Saharan Africa will receive a secondary education, let alone the college degree that opens up new opportunities for women in the workplace and in leadership positions around the world.

But even though gender disparities in education remain high, especially in the developing world, countries and nongovernmental organizations are stepping up to the plate to make a difference. Today, I want to share the story of an organization which empowers young women in Rwanda by helping them receive a strong secondary-school education.

Rwanda was devastated by the war and genocide in 1994, but against all odds Rwandans have managed to rebuild their country and become a model of low corruption, economic growth, and gender parity in government. The constitution mandates a minimum 30 percent representation for women in Parliament, and today, remarkably, it is 64 percent women. These women have been instrumental in the reconciliation and rebuilding of the country and continue to lead today. However, women are not represented at this level in all sectors, and in the rural areas many parents are skeptical of the value of educating their girls. As is typical in many developing countries, if parents have limited money to send their children to school, many will send only their boys and

keep the girls at home to help with household chores like collecting wood and tending to younger siblings. In Rwanda, 97 percent of girls attend primary school, but less than 13 percent attend secondary school, meaning that only a small fraction of Rwanda's young women will have the opportunity to go to university.

Rwanda Girls Initiative, RGI was founded in 2008 in Seattle, WA, with the mission of educating and empowering girls of Rwanda to reach their highest potential. RGI believes that education is the foundation on which all other development is built, and educating girls can exponentially increase this impact. With this belief and with a strong partnership with the Government of Rwanda, RGI started the Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology in 2011. Gashora Girls Academy is an upper-secondary university prep boarding school for 270 girls in grades 10–12 located in the Gashora sector of Bugesera District, a poor, agricultural area located an hour to the south of Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. This area was particularly devastated during the country's genocide in 1994. Gashora Girls Academy offers a curriculum that focuses on STEM subjects—science, technology, engineering, and math—with an underlying belief in the importance of educating and nurturing the “whole girl.” Beyond the STEM coursework, students focus on developing life skills, leadership, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities. Crucially, they get an education in a safe environment, free from the violence that is all too common for many young women in Rwanda and around the world.

In October 2013, Gashora Girls Academy graduated their first class of seniors. Of 85 graduates, 25 are admitted to schools in the United States, including Harvard, Yale, Smith, the University of Pennsylvania, and Seattle University. Two more girls are going to McGill University in Canada. These 27 girls coming to North America will be receiving approximately \$4.8 million in financial aid in order to attend world-class institutions. Other graduating students are attending schools in Costa Rica, China, South Africa, Ghana, and right at home in Rwanda. These girls will become national leaders, doctors, scientists, teachers, and more, each contributing to the success of their country.

Enatha Ntirandekura is a recent graduate from Gashora Girls Academy. Both of her parents are subsistence farmers and the very little income they make is from a small plot of land. Though Enatha was always a strong student, some in her village discouraged her parents from allowing her to continue her studies. They said that a girl shouldn't be educated. At one point, someone in the village burned her family's coffee trees, their sole source of income. But her parents continued to send her to school, and she had the top score in her district on the

national exam after middle school. She was offered a scholarship by the Rwanda Girls Initiative to attend Gashora Girls Academy. Enatha is a tenacious student and scored perfectly on the national exam she took after graduating this past year. Because of her success, she has been selected as a Presidential Scholar and will receive a full scholarship to an American university this fall. She hopes to study agriculture and then go back to Rwanda to work on the problem of malnutrition and food scarcity to help her community.

As we can see from Enatha, educating a woman is a tremendous investment. When Enatha returns home with her degree in agricultural science, that one scholarship to Gashora Girls Academy will empower her to help many more people in Rwanda. And Enatha's story is not unique; in fact, it is the norm. One extra year of secondary school increases a girl's future wages by 15 to 25 percent. When a woman in the developing world receives 7 or more years of education, she marries later and has fewer children. When women and girls earn income, they reinvest 90 percent of it into their families, creating a ripple effect for coming generations. Helping Enatha and the young women like her become doctors, teachers, and leaders will transform not only individuals, but entire communities.

Educating girls and young women is the surest way to empower them. Education empowers them to teach, to lead, and to stand up against violence. I am honored to stand with my female colleagues to draw attention to this important issue. A great education transforms lives and can lift up entire communities and countries. I look forward to working with my colleagues to empower women and girls around the world.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I have introduced legislation to reauthorize the Traumatic Brain Injury Act. It is my pleasure to be joined in this effort by my colleague and fellow member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee, Senator BOB CASEY, Jr.

Brain injuries are among the most frequent reasons for visits to physicians and emergency rooms, and contribute to about thirty percent of all injury deaths. A critical health issue for military personnel, TBI has also become a signature wound of war. According to a Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, DVBIC, analysis of surveillance data released by the Department of Defense, DoD, 33,149 U.S. military personnel were diagnosed with a TBI in 2011 alone.

People who survive a TBI can face observable effects lasting just a few days, or serious lifelong disability. A survivor of a severe brain injury typically faces five to 10 years of intensive

services and estimated lifetime costs in the millions. TBI affects not only the person living with TBI, but also the family and community of which the individual is a part. Families are the primary caregivers for a person with brain injury.

The Traumatic Brain Injury Act is the only Federal legislation that specifically addresses issues faced by the millions of American children and adults who live with a long-term disability as a result of TBI. I first introduced the TBI Act with the late Senator Ted Kennedy nearly 20 years ago. The TBI Act of 1996 launched an effort to conduct expanded studies and to establish innovative programs for TBI.

Three agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, administer the TBI program: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, carries out projects relate to prevention, surveillance, and education about TBI; the National Institutes of Health, NIH, funds basic and applied research; and the Health Resources and Services Administration, HRSA, assists states in improving access to health and other services, including protection and advocacy services. The TBI Reauthorization Act of 2014 will continue these vital supports for an extremely vulnerable population. This bill also continues to encourage interagency coordination and requires HHS to develop a coordination plan for all Federal activities with respect to TBI.

According to the CDC, in 2009, nearly a quarter of a million children age 19 or younger were treated in emergency departments for sports and recreation-related injuries that included a diagnosis of concussion or TBI. This legislation also requires the review of scientific evidence regarding brain injury management in children and adolescents, including current and promising additional research.

The TBI program offers balanced and coordinated public policy in brain injury prevention, research, education, and community-based services and supports for individuals living with traumatic brain injury and their families and I ask my colleagues' support for the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2014.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE McLAUGHLIN

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Katherine “Kay” McLaughlin.

Kay was born in South Boston, MA, on July 11, 1921. She is the middle child of the five children of Francis Pucci and Mary O'Donnell.

Kay grew up a short walk from Boston Harbor near Castle Island, a Revolutionary War-era fort that still stands today, and spent many days walking from her home to Castle Island and back, a lifelong habit that has contributed greatly to her long life. She graduated from Boston Girls High School