

ISIS. He had also allegedly plotted to shoot U.S. military members in the United States who had returned from Iraq. Elgeeh was arrested after purchasing two handguns, ammunition, and silencers.

February 25, 2015: Abdurasul Hasanovich Juraboev was charged for offering online to kill the U.S. President if ordered by ISIS. He, along with Akhror Saidakhmetov, allegedly then planned to travel to Syria to wage jihad on behalf of ISIS.

April 2, 2015: Noelle Velentzas and Asia Siddiqui were arrested, following a sting operation, for plotting to detonate explosives in the United States. The two allegedly discussed possible targets online and had acquired both multiple propane tanks and instructions on how to turn the tanks into bombs. Siddiqui had allegedly contacted members of Al-Qaeda on repeated occasions.

April 10, 2015: John T. Booker was arrested, after a sting operation, for allegedly trying to detonate a car bomb at the Fort Riley military base in Kansas on behalf of ISIS. Booker allegedly had spent months discussing different plans of attack before deciding on a suicide attack against the base, and had begun acquiring components for a vehicle bomb before becoming the subject of the FBI operation. He also allegedly repeatedly stated that he wished to engage in violent jihad on behalf of ISIS.

June 12, 2015: David Wright and Nicholas Rovinski were charged with conspiring to commit attacks against persons inside the United States, which was intended to further ISIS's objectives and therefore constituted material support to that group. Wright and Rovinski also allegedly intended to behead a man who had organized a conference in Garland, Texas that featured cartoons depicting Muhammad. Moreover, Wright and Rovinski allegedly conspired with Usaamah Abdullah Rahim—Wright's uncle—who was shot and killed after attacking police officers. The FBI stated that Rahim had been under surveillance because he had bought fighting knives and spoken of imminently attacking "boys in blue." Rahim, when confronted by the police on a sidewalk, menaced the officers with a military-style knife before shooting him when he refused to drop the knife.

June 17, 2015: Fareed Mumuni and Munther Omar Saleh were arrested for allegedly conspiring to attempt to assist ISIS in committing a terrorist attack in the New York area. Mumuni and Saleh allegedly charged, with knives, at law enforcement officers who were trying to arrest them. Mumuni also allegedly told authorities that he had pledged his support to ISIS.

June 19, 2015: Robert McCollum, who changed his name to Amir Said Abdul Rahman Al-Ghazi, was charged with, among other offenses, attempting to provide material support to ISIS. He allegedly had pledged his support to ISIS via social media, took steps to create propaganda for the group, and had tried to persuade others to join ISIS too. He allegedly had also expressed his desire to conduct an attack on the United States, and had attempted to purchase an assault rifle.

July 13, 2015: Alexander Ciccolo was arrested on gun charges after purchasing two pistols and two rifles from an undercover FBI informant. His apartment allegedly was loaded with bomb-making equipment and jihadi paperwork. Ciccolo allegedly had planned to travel to a town with a state university where he could attack students at the college. Ciccolo was turned in by his father, who said his son was inspired by ISIS, had said he is "not afraid to die for the cause," and reportedly characterized America as "Satan" and "disgusting."

July 28, 2015: Harlem Suarez was charged with attempting to use a weapon of mass de-

struction against a person or property within the United States. Suarez came to law enforcement attention following Facebook posts he made with Islamic extremist rhetoric and promoting ISIS. Suarez allegedly had told a confidential FBI source that he wanted to make a "timer bomb," which was to include galvanized nails and for which he had purchased components, to be buried and detonated at a beach in Key West, Florida.

November 12, 2015: Terrence McNeil was arrested in Ohio for soliciting the murder of members of the U.S. military. He had disseminated ISIS rhetoric and detailed U.S. military personnel information for 100 military members, then called on fellow terrorists to kill the military personnel in their homes and communities.

Mr. GRASSLEY. These lists include successful attacks that harmed Americans as well as unsuccessful attempts that did not—often thanks to law enforcement's efforts. What is common to all the attacks is that they were undertaken by terrorists who coordinated with radical Islamic extremists, were inspired by them or by those who shared their views. The listed attacks should serve as a reminder that we must always be vigilant. We must never forget that radical Islamic extremists are waging war against us. We must always be prepared to fight this battle and to defend against their attacks.

I am grateful this Thanksgiving season for the people in this country who do the difficult work of protecting us from terrorists every day. We must continually strengthen our country's ability to win this war. We must ensure that our military and Special Forces have the ability to take the fight to the terrorists overseas, wherever they are lurking. We must ensure that our intelligence agencies have the tools needed to identify terrorists and their plots, while preserving the civil liberties that make our country very special. And we must ensure that law enforcement is able to use the lawful tools provided by Congress, consistent with our Constitution and approved by our courts, to help stop these terrorist attacks.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### TRIBUTE TO BART AND CHERRY STARR

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor two great Americans, two wonderful people—Bart and Cherry Starr—for their numerous personal, professional, and charitable contributions to the Nation and the great State of Wisconsin.

We are all aware of Bart's extraordinary contributions on the football field as quarterback for the Green Bay

Packers. Drafted in the 17th round in 1956, Bart proceeded to win 5 world championships, including victories in the first 2 Super Bowls. He was named the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player for both games, but ever humble, Bart gave full credit to his teammates and to legendary coach Vince Lombardi for the team's historic success.

Over the years, Bart has received many honors. He was selected as a Pro Bowl Player four times and was named the NFL's Most Valuable Player in 1966. He was recognized in 1970 with the Gladiator of the Year Award for best exemplifying the character attributes of a citizen-athlete. And he has been inducted into multiple Halls of Fame: The Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1976, the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1977, and the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame in 1981.

Bart's football legacy goes beyond technical skill. His excellence in leadership and strength of character earned him the respect of his coaches, teammates, and fans worldwide. He continues to be lauded as an example throughout the NFL. Every year, the Bart Starr Award is presented to an NFL player who demonstrates leadership and integrity on the field and in his community.

Bart considers his wife Cherry to be the most important member of the Starr family team. Cherry supported and inspired her husband as they raised their children, Bart Junior and Bret, and devoted herself to numerous charitable causes throughout their life together. Their gifts of time, financial support, and celebrity continue to be a part of a lifelong mission benefiting many charities and causes.

At the height of his career with the Packers, Bart and Cherry cofounded Rawhide Boys Ranch, a home for at-risk boys. Over the years, the Rawhide Boys Ranch has grown into a campus comprised of seven boys homes, a state-of-the-art high school named in honor of Bart and Cherry Starr, and numerous work experience facilities that expose youth to a variety of trades.

Bart and Cherry also served as honorary chairpersons for the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation for more than 44 years. Their work behind the scenes was central to raising more than \$16 million for cancer research.

In addition, Bart and Cherry have been longtime supporters of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama. Cornerstone offers a Christ-centered education committed to academic excellence for Birmingham's inner city children whose families have limited school choice.

Finally, Cherry's passion for animals fuels their generous support over many years for the Greater Birmingham Humane Society.

Bart and Cherry are very proud of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, but the accomplishment they value most, that they cherish most, is their 60 years of loving marriage. I am honored to recognize

Bart and Cherry Starr for their exemplary lives. May their humble leadership, sacrifice, and love for others serve as an inspiration for all of us.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

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. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

### RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise to speak once again on the topic of religious liberty. This is the sixth in a series of addresses I have given on this critical subject. In my previous remarks, I have discussed why religious liberty matters and why it deserves special protection from government interference. I have also detailed the history of religious liberty in the United States and its centrality to our Nation's founding. Likewise, I have debunked the erroneous notion that religion is a purely private matter that has no place in the public domain.

Last week, I discussed the status of religious liberty in contemporary American life. I argued that, in ways that are both alarming and unprecedented, religious liberty is under attack here in the United States. Today, I turn my attention beyond our borders to examine the status of religious liberty abroad. Again, my argument is straightforward: across the world, religious liberty is under serious attack.

My observations are particularly relevant as we approach Thanksgiving. Our Nation commemorates this special holiday in remembrance of our pilgrim ancestors who fled persecution in search of religious freedom. These brave men and women sailed uncharted waters and settled strange lands in order to build a society where they could practice their religion free from state interference. Their earnest efforts precipitated not only the establishment of a new colony, but the birth of a nation committed to the principles of religious pluralism.

For America's earliest settlers, this land stood as a symbol of refuge—a haven from the storm of religious oppression that lingered over Europe. Centuries later, victims of religious persecution across the world still look to our shores for sanctuary. They see America as John Winthrop once described it: "As a city upon a hill"—a light that reaches across the oceans, giving hope to those still living in the shadows of religious intolerance.

Today our world needs that light more than ever. Nearly four centuries after the Pilgrims made landfall at Plymouth Rock, the state of religious liberty across the world is increasingly precarious. From brutal crackdowns on religious minorities in Central Asia to

a growing wave of anti-Semitism in Europe; from the violent campaigns of Boko Haram in Africa to the nefarious specter of ISIS in the Middle East—religious liberty is under attack like never before.

Despite the rapid advance of democracy over the last century, the blessings of religious freedom are still inaccessible to a majority of the world's population. In fact, a recent Pew study finds that three-quarters of the global population "lives in countries with high-government restrictions and significant hostilities surrounding religion."

Think about that. In spite of the substantial progress our own society has made in securing individual rights and enshrining religious liberty in law, there are still billions of people across the world who are unable to exercise their religion freely and fully. There are still billions of individuals living under despotic regimes that not only fail to protect people from persecution, but that actively constrain the conscience of citizens through law. There are still billions of people who understand religious liberty as little more than a philosophical concept, much less a reality.

I wish I could offer these people hope. I wish I could say that the gradual march of progress will part the waters of religious intolerance, paving a clear path forward for religious liberty, but reality restrains my optimism. Around the world, hostility to religion is increasing.

Religious liberty abroad faces opposition from two sources: states and nonstate actors. While I would like to relate an exhaustive account of the war being waged on both fronts, time permits me to highlight only the most grievous examples of persecution.

I begin with state-sponsored acts of religious oppression. Far from being a relic of the past, government persecution of religious minorities is alive and well. First, consider the state of religious liberty in Asia. China is perhaps the world's leading instigator of religious persecution. Last year, in a nearly unprecedented crackdown on religious expression, the Chinese Government bulldozed or removed crosses from more than 400 Protestant and Catholic Churches. According to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, many experts have characterized this growing tide of oppression against Christians in China as "the most egregious and persistent since the Cultural Revolution."

And Christian denominations are not the only groups facing oppression. Members of all faiths, including Muslims and Tibetan Buddhists, "face arrests, fines, denials of justice, [and] lengthy prison sentences" because of their religious beliefs. Practitioners of Falun Gong experience the most intense persecution. Sixteen years ago, the Chinese Government imposed an outright ban on the practice of Falun Gong. Since that time, the government

has imprisoned believers in forced labor camps, subjecting them to psychiatric experiments and other heinous forms of torture. The government has even executed practitioners of Falun Gong, mutilating their bodies and harvesting their organs for profit. Our Nation can no longer turn a blind eye to these atrocities.

Nor can we ignore the plight of religious prisoners in North Korea, where Kim Jong-un has incarcerated thousands of his own citizens for their religious beliefs. These men and women are separated from their families and forced to work in concentration camps. While the government punishes followers of any faith, the country's Christians face the greatest persecution. If caught practicing their religion, Christians face imprisonment without trial. Many face execution.

In Southeast Asia, Myanmar is responsible for propagating religious bigotry, not so much by what it does but by what it doesn't do. Across the country, religious and ethnic minorities face increasing persecution at the hands of the Buddhist majority. Rather than intervene to protect these vulnerable groups from mistreatment, the Myanmar Government has stood idly by as an observer to the violence. As a result of the government's inaction, 140,000 Muslims and at least 100,000 Christians have been internally displaced.

In Africa and the Middle East, the situation is just as bleak. In Iran, despite President Rouhani's promise to extend greater protections to religious minorities, the number of individuals detained because of their religious beliefs has actually increased during his term. Baha'is, Christians, Jews, and Sunni Muslims throughout the country face perpetual persecution, arrest, beating, and imprisonment. Some are even executed for their beliefs. And of course, there is perhaps no government on earth more vocal in its anti-Semitism than Iran.

Meanwhile, in Saudi Arabia, the state prohibits all non-Muslim public places of worship. Any citizen who dares question the government's repressive policies is likely to face charges of apostasy, blasphemy, and even sorcery—a crime punishable by death.

In Syria, Bashar al Assad has abandoned all appearances of religious liberty by deliberately targeting Sunni Muslim civilians in a bloody civil war. As he massacres his own people, he does so on the basis of their religious affiliation.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to finish my remarks.

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

Mr. HATCH. In Pakistan the government consistently fails to protect its own citizens from religiously motivated violence, and the courts exploit repressive anti-blasphemy laws to prosecute religious minorities. Egypt's