

Many women journalists have been targeted and unjustly detained. In particular, the escalating use of criminal charges of “false news” or “fake news” to imprison journalists and activists is alarming. Certainly, these incitements of “fake news” echo President Trump and his administration’s regressive rhetoric and attacks on the press and democratic values.

As of December 2019, Turkey was the world’s second worst jailer of journalists with 47 in prison, coming in close second to China with 48. President Erdogan has cracked down on independent criticism by shuttering more than 100 news outlets and jailing dozens of journalists. Editor Hatice Duman was imprisoned in 2003 and is serving a life sentence based on charges of propaganda and being a member of a banned group. Duman was the owner and news editor of the socialist weekly “Atilim,” which had opposed President Erdogan’s policies. She was convicted based on authorities’ claim of her attendance at a Marxist-Leninist Communist Party demonstration and the testimony of confidential witnesses. Duman’s husband later said the police threatened sexual violence against his family if he did not testify against his wife. Ayseur Parildak and Hanim Büsra Erdal, two journalists for “Zaman,” are both serving sentences for terrorism-related offenses based on claims that “Zaman” had ties to Fethulaah Gülen. Sadiye Eser, a reporter for the pro-Kurdish “Mezopotamya News Agency,” has also been detained by police since November 2019 on politically motivated charges of membership of a terrorist organization.

In Egypt, President Sisi has attempted to quash dissent and consolidate control by wrongfully imprisoning human rights defenders. Mahienour el-Masry, a human rights lawyer, has spent her career organizing peaceful protests, advocating for political prisoners, and denouncing human rights violations. She was arrested in September 2019 following a wave of protests calling for President Sisi’s resignation and charged with collaborating with a terrorist organization, spreading “false news,” and using social media to publish false rumors. Esraa Abdel Fattah, a human rights activist and reporter for the banned “Tahrir News,” was arrested on charges of spreading “false news,” membership in a banned group, and abuse of social media networks in October 2019. Abdel Fattah was reportedly beaten, hung from handcuffs for hours, and choked with her clothes while interrogated.

In Burundi, authorities have cracked down on free expression in anticipation of the country’s 2020 elections. Christine Kamikazi and Agnes Ndirubusa, journalists at Burundi’s last remaining independent newspaper “Iwacu,” were arrested and convicted on charges of attempting threat against state security by collaborating with the rebel

group RED-Tabara. Kamikazi and Ndirubusa were traveling with two colleagues to report on in-fighting between Burundian security forces and RED-Tabara when they were arrested. They were convicted despite the fact that “Iwacu” had informed authorities of their plan to travel to the area for reporting and the fact that the RED-Tabara attack had already occurred before their travels to the region.

Finally, a year ago today, I highlighted 14 women political prisoners in a statement marking International Women’s Day. Of those 14, 8 remain in detention today. These include Saudi women’s rights and human rights activists Loujain al-Hathloul, Nassima al-Sada, Samar Badawi, Nouf Abdulaziz, and Maya’a al-Zahrani; Senator Leila de Lima, detained for her criticism of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines; Guligeina Tashimaimaiti, a Uyghur PhD student detained in China; and Aster Fissehatsion, a political dissident held incommunicado without charge nor trial since 2001 in Eritrea.

In Egypt, Russia, China, Iran, Turkey, Burundi, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, and Eritrea, these women threatened by a repressive government, abusive authorities, and critical risks to their health are advocating for the betterment of their entire communities. Sadly, these 25 women highlighted today only represent a small fraction of countless women and girls unjustly detained and imprisoned.

On this International Women’s Day, we reflect on the remarkable achievements of women and the work that remains to be done by all of us to reach gender parity. The women political prisoners we have highlighted today serve as role models championing human rights, democracy, cultural tolerance, and environmental preservation. Their detention should embolden the rest of us to take up their causes in their absence. I call on governments unjustly detaining women for exercising their fundamental rights to immediately release these political prisoners. We will not forget these women, what they have fought for, and what they have sacrificed for all of us as a result.

WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, on January 28, 2020, I submitted a statement for the RECORD on H. Con. Res. 83, which directs the President to terminate the use of U.S. Armed Forces to engage in hostilities against Iran.

H. Con. Res. 83 was passed by the House of Representatives on January 9, 2020, and received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations on January 13, 2020. Pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1546(c), H. Con. Res. 83 should have been treated as a privileged resolution and reported out of the committee on January 28.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee majority leadership opted not

to hold a committee debate or vote on H. Con. Res. 83. As I explained in my statement of January 28, I understand that this decision was based primarily on the view that a concurrent resolution, under the War Powers Resolution, may be privileged only if it uses the word “remove” or the phrase “removal of United States Armed Forces engaged in hostilities,” rather than “terminate” or “terminate the use of United States Armed Forces to engage in hostilities,” as used in H. Con. Res. 83. As I will explain, however, this view is not consistent with Senate precedent.

On February 13, 2020, the Senate passed S.J. Res. 68. This resolution contains identical operative language to H. Con. Res. 83, directing the President to “terminate” the use of U.S. Armed Forces for hostilities against Iran. The very fact that S.J. Res. 68 was considered in the Senate on a privileged and expedited basis clarified that there are no magic words required for privilege under the War Powers Resolution, and that the use of “terminate” qualifies for such privilege. As a result, it is clear that H. Con. Res. 83 should have been accorded privileged status and, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1546(c), should have been reported out of committee and put up for a Senate vote.

Fortunately, the Senate prerogatives under the War Powers Resolution were vindicated by the debate, privileged consideration, and vote on S.J. Res. 68. As such and in light of the identical purpose and operative texts of the Senate joint resolution and the House concurrent resolution, there is no need at this point for a second, identical debate to occur either in the committee or on the Senate floor. In other words, inaction on H. Con. Res. 83 is harmless.

Both Chambers of Congress have made their views and the views of the American people with regard to U.S. hostilities against Iran quite clear. I hope President Trump and his national security staff abide by this message.

BICENTENNIAL OF MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on March 15, 1820, Maine became our Nation’s 23rd State. It is a pleasure to join my fellow Mainers in celebrating this bicentennial and the generations of people who have written an inspiring and remarkable history.

The story of Maine begins long before President James Monroe signed the legislation granting statehood to what had been a district of Massachusetts. For thousands of years, the land has been home to the Wabanaki, who have drawn sustenance from Maine’s woods and waters. The People of the Dawn remain valued members of our communities today, and their reverence for nature is the foundation of the ethic of environmental stewardship that continues to guide our State.

French explorers, led by Samuel de Champlain, first visited the area in 1604. In 1607, more than a decade before

the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, bold English pioneers established Popham Colony and constructed the first sailing ship built in North America. Ten years later, Captain John Smith sailed the North Atlantic coast and named the region “New England.”

The European settlers that followed cleared farm fields, cut timber, and harvested the bounty of the sea. They harnessed rivers to power grain, lumber, and textile mills. With pick and shovel, they built roads and, later, railroads to connect communities to one another and Maine to the world.

In June of 1775, just 2 months after Lexington and Concord, the first naval battle of the American Revolution was fought at Machias. Armed with nothing more than muskets, pitchforks, and axes, a militia of 30 patriots captured a British warship in a stunning American victory. When the British tried again to subdue that hotbed of revolution 2 years later, Passamaquoddy warriors joined with the local militia to repel the invasion.

We are a State of immigrants, first from England, Scotland, and Ireland, then from Scandinavia. When the Acadians fled persecution in British Canada, many found new homes in Maine, establishing our rich Franco-American heritage. In recent years, Maine has opened its arms to thousands of refugees from Somalia and other nations in Africa and the Middle East.

Maine achieved statehood as a result of legislation that admitted two new States—Maine and Missouri—to the Union—one free, one slave. Freedom is a theme that resonates throughout Maine’s history.

During the era when slavery stained our young Nation, Mainers were fervent abolitionists and hosted a vital part of the Underground Railroad. It was in Maine that Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” the novel that brought the horror of slavery into homes throughout America.

During the Civil War, Maine provided more soldiers per capita to the Union cause than any other State. When Joshua Chamberlain and the 20th Maine made their heroic charge at Little Round Top, they turned the tide at Gettysburg and saved our Nation so that all people would be free. As the war neared its end, President Abraham Lincoln established a network of hospitals to care for wounded veterans, the foundation of today’s VA. It was fitting that the very first of those hospitals was in Maine.

Maine also led the way in ensuring that all American citizens have the right to express themselves at the ballot box. Maine provided some of the most effective leaders in the movement for women’s suffrage. Maine’s Governor and two Senators played key roles in the passage of the 19th Amendment that took effect 100 years ago, during Maine’s centennial year.

Two episodes wonderfully describe the commitment of Maine people to liberty, equality, and dignity for all. In

1837, the crew of a Maine schooner smuggled a slave from a southern port to our State and to freedom. The Governor of the slave State demanded not just the return of the slave but also the extradition of the ship’s captain and first mate to face charges of theft of property. The response of Maine’s Governor was blunt: “We do not consider people to be property.”

In our time, in 2003, an out-of-State neo-Nazi White supremacist group brought its message of racial bigotry and anti-Semitism to Lewiston, a city that had recently opened its doors, and its heart, to refugees from Somalia. The rally for hate attracted barely 30 people. The counter rally for humanity drew more than 4,000. Another 1,000 gathered outside on a bitterly cold January day, unable to fit into the packed Bates College gym but unwilling to let their voices go unheard.

That is the real story of Maine—a noble history that is upheld and enhanced today. Farming, fisheries, and forest products remain vital parts of our economy, now joined by advanced manufacturing and world-leading biomedical research. Our maritime heritage continues at our two great shipyards that keep our Navy preeminent in the world. Mainers continue to serve in uniform and defend freedom—we have the second highest percentage of veterans in the Nation. The people of our State will always come to the aid of those in need and offer a haven to the oppressed.

When Captain John Smith explored the Maine coast more than four centuries ago, he wrote in his log that settling that beautiful and untamed region would take “the best parts of art, judgment, courage, honesty, constancy, diligence, and industry.” The people of Maine continue to demonstrate those qualities, and it is an honor to celebrate this landmark anniversary with them.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I recognize the bicentennial anniversary of the great State of Maine, which will be celebrated on March 15, 2020. For the past 200 years, Maine has made monumental contributions to our Nation and exemplified the best of America, with immense natural treasures surpassed only by the kindness, generosity, and work ethic of its people. With the Pine Tree State now entering its third century, we look back on the people and events that brought us to this milestone and look forward to all of the successes that lie ahead.

Before it was ever known as Maine, the land was home to a number of Indigenous Tribes that together formed the Wabanaki Confederacy; to this day, Maine continues to be home to the Wabanaki people and several Native Tribes who make invaluable contributions to our State and our culture. The land was settled as an independent colony in the 17th century, before being later annexed by the colony of Massachusetts. Maine existed under Massachusetts’ rule until March 15, 1820,

when it regained its independence from our southern neighbors as part of the Compromise of 1820 and was admitted as the 23rd State of the United States of America.

Maine’s blessings are many. In the years since its admission to the United States, Maine has made major economic contributions to the Nation. Maine people have proven to be resourceful, adaptable, gritty, and hardworking, which, combined with our vast natural resources, have established the State as a leader in vital industries. As the most forested State in the Nation, Maine’s timber industry thrived; with our thousands of miles of coastline, Maine people worked the waters and created one of the most lucrative and sustainable fisheries in the world. We have turned fertile farmland into a legacy of family farms and diversified agriculture, allowing Maine-grown food to be served across the Nation, and we have harnessed unmatched scenery to establish our State as a leader in tourism, where visitors from around the globe wait all year to spend a week in Vacationland. In these industries and many more, Maine leads the way, and it all starts with the men, women, and families who make up the fabric of our communities and set the standard for the way life should be.

Maine’s innate adaptability and determination extends to every part of our society, including our choice of leaders. For generations, Maine’s elected officials have emphasized common sense and problem-solving above all, traits drawn directly from the State’s voters and values. The example set by Joshua Chamberlain, the Lion of Little Round Top, who led his men against impossible odds during the Civil War to strike major victories for the Union, exemplifies Maine’s focus on service over self. This legacy was furthered by Margaret Chase Smith as she stood up to the political powers of her day and chose country over party. There are so many other examples, from Ed Muskie to Bill Cohen to George Mitchell to Olympia Snowe, of how Maine’s leaders have championed some of the country’s most impactful pieces of legislation by focusing on results over partisanship, wielding an outsized influence given Maine’s population. It is not just national either; there are too many examples to list of State and local leaders who have stepped forward to create a better Maine for all of our people. This legacy of fighting to achieve the difficult right instead of settling for the convenient wrong speaks to the unique independence of Maine citizens, who have always voted based on ideas, not on party. This approach is far too infrequent in our political discourse; on this subject, as on most, the Nation could use more of Maine’s sensibility.

I have always said that Maine is like a big small town, with very long streets because, no matter where you live in Maine, we are all neighbors and we are all in service to each other. This focus on service is why Maine has long

had one of the highest rates of veterans per capita, and it is why towns across Maine offer a wide range of resources to help lift up our fellow citizens struggling with challenges ranging from substance use disorders to unemployment to food insecurity. I have been lucky enough to travel to every corner and pocket of our State, and the way our communities care for our own never ceases to amaze me. No matter if it is a time of crisis or business as usual, Maine people are in it together. That is a profoundly rare phenomenon, and we are infinitely better for it.

Maine's motto, "Dirigo," is simple, declarative, and fitting; translated from Latin, it means "I Lead." That is exactly right: For the last 200 years, Maine has led the way, economically, politically, and socially. As we honor the 200th anniversary of Maine's statehood, I know that our State is positioned to continue its leadership for generations to come. So, regardless of which of the 16 counties you are from, let us come together—as is the Maine tradition—and celebrate our great fortune to live, work, and play in the greatest State in the Nation. Happy 200th birthday, Maine, and thanks to each and every person who makes our State so special. Thanks to your efforts, I am certain we will see history repeat itself as Maine embarks on another 200 years of prosperity, community, common sense, and leadership.

55TH ANNIVERSARY OF "BLOODY SUNDAY"

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this past weekend marked the 55th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, one of the darkest moments in our democracy. On March 7, 1965, Alabama law enforcement officers brutally attacked hundreds of peaceful demonstrators marching from Selma to Montgomery to demand full civil rights for African Americans. These brave protesters put their safety and liberty on the line to build an America that lives up to its ideals of freedom, justice, and equality. It is thanks to their heroism—and the heroism of many civil rights activists before and since—that our country has made great strides towards those ideals. However, in order to fully honor their struggle, we must also recognize that much of the hatred and discrimination which they fought to root out persists, although perhaps in less overt or easily recognized forms.

One of the strongest, most disheartening examples of this phenomenon is the ongoing assault on the right of minorities to vote. This is not ancient history. States all over the country continue to "modernize" strategies developed a century ago to suppress African-American voting power. Some of these strategies are blatant and recognizable, like mass purges of voter rolls; the gerrymandering of districts with "surgical precision," according to one court; and intimidation of voters of color. Some of the strategies are dis-

guised behind excuses or fear tactics, like obstructive voter ID laws, felony disenfranchisement, and closures of polling sites in heavily minority-populated areas.

So long as we allow these sorts of practices to continue, we are denying American citizens the right to vote promised to them by our Constitution, and we are undermining the integrity of our democracy. This is a problem on principle, of course—until we guarantee the right to vote regardless of race, we fall short of the unique promise and potential of the United States of America. But it is also a problem for broader practical reasons—when we exclude people from fully participating in our democracy, we prevent them from achieving the social, economic, and civic reforms they need to strengthen their communities.

So, what are we going to do about that? I know what I will do: I will fight for laws that will guarantee every American a voice in our democracy. That is why I have introduced bills like the Democracy Restoration Act, S.1068, to restore the Federal right to vote to ex-offenders, and the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation and Suppression Act, S.1834, to penalize the voter suppression efforts so frequently aimed at minority communities.

It is also why I am a fervent supporter of H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act. This bill, which was passed by the House of Representatives at the end of last year, would remedy the Supreme Court's 2013 decision decimating section 5 of the Voting Rights Act and thereby strengthen our ability to prevent discriminatory changes to State voting laws and procedures. I thank Senator LEAHY for championing this bill and call on Leader MCCONNELL and Chairman GRAHAM to urgently bring H.R. 4 for consideration in Committee and in the Senate.

Let's honor all of those whose struggles for freedom and equality throughout our Nation's history have been met with violence and hatred. Let's carry on their torch and help make their dreams a reality. Let's fulfill the right to vote.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters of the United States. With a commitment to civic participation, the League has secured its place nationally as a relied-upon source of voter education and a protector of voting rights. The centennial celebration is a historical benchmark for the State of Michigan, as well as the entire Nation.

Just 6 months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the suffragists of the National American Woman Suffrage Association as well as other suffrage groups embarked on a mission to ensure that voters, particularly women, would have the necessary non-

partisan information to make informed decisions on who and what to support in elections. With this newfound mission, the suffrage movement began a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new civic duty.

With Michigan women winning the right to vote in 1918, the mission to educate Michigan women voters started before the League was established nationally when the Michigan League of Women Voters formed out of the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association in 1919. The following year, they became part of the League of Women Voters of the United States. The early Michigan LWV advocated for changes to State-level voter registration laws and civil service reform; they also established citizenship classes through citizenship schools in people's homes. Many of their actions influenced early programs of the National League, and the intent of those programs continue today through the League's work.

While the League is nonpartisan, even from their conception, the League used their voice and their platform for advocacy. One of their earliest initiatives was for child welfare reform, as well as civil service and election law reforms across the country. In 1941, the League advocated successfully for amending Michigan State law to forbid factory work by those under 16 and to mandate school attendance by all children between the ages of 7 and 16. Other major legislation the League advocated for includes the Equal Rights Amendment, National Voter Registration Act, and the Help America Vote Act.

Today, Leagues from across the country advocate for issues such as fighting voter suppression, limiting the influence of money in politics, and redistricting. They are constantly encouraging and pushing for further investment in our election infrastructure and election security. With a presence in over 700 communities and across all 50 States, the League of Women Voters of the United States has become an activist, grassroots organization which plays a critical role in our democracy.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the League of Women Voters of the United States on the lasting impact it has made throughout our Nation's history and for the work it continues to do. As the League of Women Voters of the United States celebrates this centennial milestone, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating its members and extending best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.