

For the past year, the leader of Burma's democracy movement and thousands of her fellow citizens have been detained while the Tatmadaw, which is the army, drags their country violently backward.

The generals responsible for last year's coup have met a groundswell of popular protests with brutality. As Burma's diverse ethnic minorities have found historic unity in the cause of democracy, the junta has stoked violence and division.

The Tatmadaw is holding countless citizens of Burma in prolonged detention, along with foreign nationals like the Australian economist Sean Turnell. Its political prisoners reportedly include dozens—dozens—of children under the age of 15. And its baseless prosecution of Daw Suu Kyi illustrates how long the road ahead is for Burma's democracy advocates.

The military's latest ruling against my friend is just one in an absurd list that could carry a total sentence of up to 190 years.

With every passing day, the junta's ruling generals are showing the world exactly what they are afraid of. They fear the people of Burma—their unity, their resolve, and their devotion to a democratic future. I have been proud to stand with Burma's democracy movement throughout my career. I have been paying close attention to their plight this past year. And I am looking forward to hearing soon from the Biden administration about their efforts to help. What sanctions will the administration apply to ratchet up the pressure? What additional support will they try to provide to the true representatives of the people of Burma? What will they do to ensure that restoration of democracy in Burma is a top priority for the upcoming ASEAN Summit?

The leaders and supporters of this brutal coup must be held accountable.

VIOLENT CRIME

Madam President, on another matter, last week in my hometown of Louisville, I sat down with law enforcement officials and local leaders to discuss our skyrocketing rate of violent crime.

The participants came from a wide variety of backgrounds, but everybody agreed murders, shootings, robberies, carjackings, and overdoses are simply out of control. Louisville recorded 188 homicides in 2021, an alltime record. Twenty-four of the victims were children.

Just recently an anti-gun, anti-police activist made national headlines when he tried to assassinate a Jewish Democratic Louisville mayoral candidate.

Jefferson County saw more than 500 drug overdose deaths last year, hundreds more than in years before the pandemic. These problems are literally overwhelming the city's coroners.

One expert I met with said that violent crime has stolen more years of potential life from Louisville than the pandemic. Carjackings are up over 200

percent in the last 2 years. We now average more than one carjacking every 48 hours. Folks on the ground say they are also seeing nonfatal shootings and gang activity increasing.

This crime spree is coming from the tiny minority of Louisville residents. One half of 1 percent of the population manages to commit an outright majority of all the city's violent crime. That is possible in large part because many are let out back on the street within days of their arrests.

Of course, this isn't just a Louisville problem. We have seen violent crime soar nationwide since the far left's national anti-police and anti-law enforcement campaign that began back in 2020. Cities everywhere are under siege. Here in Washington, in broad daylight just yesterday, there was literally an armed robbery right outside the headquarters of the FBI.

Polls show 69 percent of Louisville residents oppose—oppose—the “defund the police” movement and 66 percent want more police in their neighborhoods. But many Democrats are still unwilling to openly call for law and order in our streets. As a result, police officials say their officers feel under siege. They are worried politicians will not have their back.

Another huge factor is President Biden's failure to secure our borders. I was told at last week's roundtable that every bit of deadly heroin and fentanyl in our city streets now comes across our southern border. As long as this administration neglects to enforce our laws, every State becomes a border State.

We need to secure the border and stop narcotics flooding our neighborhoods. We need officials at all levels to back the blue, crack down on crime, and re-establish law and order.

But the Biden administration gives us just the opposite. They nominated and confirmed a Supreme Court Justice who argued that COVID justified early release for every single prisoner in Washington, DC. Just yesterday, the President issued a giant catalog of pardons and commutations, cutting sentences after sentence after sentence, particularly for convicted drug criminals. They never miss an opportunity to send the wrong signal. And until Federal, State, and local Democrats get with the program, innocent people in Louisville and across the country will continue to suffer.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID HAUCK

Madam President, now one final matter, the institution of the U.S. Congress relies on a whole army of diligent and dedicated people who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

Today, it is my pleasure to turn the spotlight on one such public servant who is retiring after a sterling career. David Hauck's time on Capitol Hill started here on the Senate side more than 30 years ago. He served as an elevator operator while he finished graduate school.

Dave thrived and impressed everybody. Before long, he was named the

founding director of the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services. This is a small team whose work often goes unheralded, but goes right to the heart of our duties to the American people.

The OCAS ensures the Capitol Complex is an accessible, welcoming place for everyone, including Americans with different abilities or disabilities.

Obviously, there is a physical component to this. Dave has worked with the architects to honor our historic buildings, while at the same time making them accessible—ramps, elevators, wheelchair options, the new lift here on the Senate floor.

Dave has tackled everything from big infrastructure questions to the smallest details. Before any big event like a joint address or inauguration or just on a normal workday, you could run into Dave walking rounds across the entire campus searching for obstacles that less keen eyes might have missed.

But physical accessibility is just one part of what Dave and his team do. The OCAS also provides crucial services to supply American Sign Language interpreters for our meetings. They translate letters into Braille. They will consult with offices to ensure an intern or staffer has the tools they need.

It is a vital team. And for decades, their quarterback has been famous for his cheerfulness and humor, his dedication, and the thousand ways he has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Dave has spent decades in the business of unlocking opportunities—the opportunity to visit here, to meet with your Senator or your Congressman, take a job here. His excellence and dedication have unlocked door after door after door.

Dave, the Senate congratulates you on your well-earned retirement. Thank you for your devoted work to keep our government by the people and for the people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Ohio.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent—I appreciate Senator COTTON joining me on the floor and his work with Senator MCCONNELL on this.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 660, 661, 663, 739, 740, 741, 742, 804, 805, and 859; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Reserving the right to object, I want to say a few words about this matter.

Two months ago, I sent a letter to the Attorney General demanding answers why the Department of Justice was hanging out to dry four deputy U.S. marshals who had bravely defended the Portland courthouse against leftwing street militias in the summer of 2020. Those marshals are now facing civil litigation, but the Department is refusing to defend them in court, putting them at risk of bankruptcy, and perhaps most alarming of all, it won't even tell them why.

Now, the Department still hasn't provided definitive answers; and after I raised this alarm, they took another step and put the marshals on limited duty, telling them that after 20 months of active unrestricted duty they are now under investigation for the events in Portland. That is despite the fact that they received an award for their actions in Portland, received outstanding and excellent performance evaluations for 2020, and were, again, deployed to some of the most dangerous and high-risk missions that our law enforcement officers can undertake.

Call me crazy, but I have to say this seems like a case of potential retaliation. But it does, in a way, give the marshals the information we were seeking to help them understand their status. I also understand that at least one marshal has filed a complaint for retaliation against Vanita Gupta, the Assistant Attorney General.

The facts will come out one way or another. My message to the Department of Justice today is this: You will be held accountable for your actions against these law enforcement officers if they are inappropriate or even unlawful. If not this year, it will happen next year because I also want to add that yesterday, I and several of my colleagues, including the Judiciary Committee's ranking member Senator GRASSLEY and the former Judiciary Committee chairman, Senator GRAHAM, sent a letter to the Department about this investigation. We intend to get to the bottom of it, and we are committed to an oversight investigation in the 118th Congress if one doesn't occur in this Congress.

I have also spoken to our Republican colleagues on the House Judiciary Committee who have today issued a request to the Department of Justice to preserve documents in this matter.

Now that I am confident the Department will receive the oversight that it deserves in this matter, I will no longer object to these nominees. Therefore, given these developments in this matter, I will withdraw my objection to the confirmation of today's nominees.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the following nominations en bloc: Ryan K. Buchanan, of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia for the term of four years; Jason M. Frierson, of Nevada, to be United

States Attorney for the District of Nevada for the term of four years; Mark A. Totten, of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan for the term of four years; Marisa T. Darden, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio for the term of four years; Delia L. Smith, of the Virgin Islands, to be United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands for the term of four years; Eddie M. Frizell, of Minnesota, to be United States Marshal for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years; LaDon A. Reynolds, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Illinois for the term of four years; Trina A. Higgins, of Utah, to be United States Attorney for the District of Utah for the term of four years; Jane E. Young, of New Hampshire, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of four years; and Vanessa Roberts Avery, of Connecticut, to be United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut for the term of four years?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Ohio.

NOMINATION OF MARISA T. DARDEN

Mr. BROWN. I thank Senator COTTON for working together on this. These nominations are very important to our States. I heard Senator MCCONNELL earlier talking about crime on the streets, and getting these people in place is really important. It has been 473 days since the 6 million people in the Northern District of Ohio last had a permanent U.S. attorney.

The pandemic is causing an alarming rise in violent crime, especially gun crimes. The Northern District is no exception. The U.S. Attorney's Office has experienced its highest caseload in 30 years by filing a record 846 indictments in 2021. Even before the pandemic, the district had a staggering caseload. Last year, there were 170 homicides in the city I live in, the city of Cleveland—another 30-year record—not to mention the surge in carjackings. Filling this important law enforcement position to keep our community safe is essential.

I hear from police officers in desperate need of help. They need more resources, whether it is bulletproof vests to support local law enforcement, operations training to engage with those they serve, or getting U.S. marshals and U.S. attorneys on the job. Today, with Senator COTTON, we are able to do that.

We have an extremely qualified nominee ready and eager to serve. Marisa Darden is a seasoned prosecutor with extensive experience as the lead attorney in both criminal and civil cases. No one has any objections to her. Nobody has any doubt about her accomplishments and capacity to excel in this job. She was assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District and was recognized for her work on several

complex legal cases. She received the National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Award for Outstanding Opioid Investigative Effort. She received the Award for Outstanding Investigative Effort—a different one—in 2019. She has significant management experience and a record of strong leadership.

Federal Judge Benita Pearson said:

You can be assured Ms. Darden will fiercely enforce the law while treating all—attorneys, staff, the accused, and the community—with respect and appropriate sensitivity.

Former Acting U.S. Attorney Justin Herdman, a Republican—the last confirmed U.S. attorney in the Northern District—described her as an attorney “of outstanding ability and unquestioned integrity.”

First Assistant Federal Public Defender Jacqueline Johnson wrote her first recommendation for a U.S. attorney in 38 years of practice—imagine that. She said that she “possesses the intellect, vision, temperament, and judgment needed to lead [this] office.”

DEA Special Agent in Charge Keith Martin echoed those comments, saying that “she is one of the best he has encountered.”

It is because of these qualifications that Senator PORTMAN has joined me in supporting Ms. Darden's nomination.

Her confirmation would be historic, making her the first African-American woman to serve as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio.

Today, we come together to get qualified and talented law enforcement professionals on the job. I thank Senator COTTON for his cooperation on this, and I thank the Presiding Officer, Senator BALDWIN, for her work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to complete my remarks before the scheduled vote at 3:30.

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

ULYSSES S. GRANT

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, 200 years ago today, one of our Nation's greatest heroes was born. Ulysses S. Grant rose from humble beginnings to stand next to Lincoln and Washington as one of America's indispensable men. This great defender of America won our bloodiest war, crushed the darkest forces of disunion, bandaged our deepest national wounds, and bridged the greatest political divides. He was an unshakable pillar of strength upon which this Nation's future rested time and again.

Virtually no one foresaw Grant's rise to greatness before the Civil War. Although he had graduated from West Point and distinguished himself as a soldier in the Mexican-American War, he had later stumbled from one failure to another in business.

In 1861, Grant was a man bent by humiliation and ridicule but unbroken.