

When they rushed down to the emergency room to help, he said, his colleague was stunned to see that two of her own children were among the dead. Her 9-year-old and 7-year-old had been killed in their home, he said, along with several of her siblings and relatives.

"We are working at a place where at any moment we expect our children, spouses, siblings or friends to come in in pieces," he said.

Some children could not be identified because of the severity of their injuries, he said. The hospital's morgue was so full that people were stacking bodies on top of one another.

"We wish for death," said Dr. Abu Safyia. "It is easier than seeing the horrific scenes we're witnessing."

He later added: "Live images are being broadcast to the whole world of people blown up into pieces, of women and children who are being murdered, for what? What did they do wrong?"

The hospital, which is in the city of Beit Lahia, just north of Jabaliya, was running extremely low on medical supplies, like all others in the Gaza Strip, he said. With no anesthesia, doctors were operating on people with severe injuries using over-the-counter painkillers like paracetamol to help ease the pain. They had a limited supply of antibiotics and were using vinegar and chlorine to disinfect wounds, the doctor added.

"The children's screams during surgeries can be heard from outside," Dr. Abu Safyia said. "We are operating on people's skulls without anesthesia."

Doctors and nurses were using the flashlights on their phones to operate in the dark because a severe shortage of fuel had left the hospital's generators able to power only two departments—the neonatal intensive-care unit and the pediatric emergency room, where 12 children are on ventilators, he said. If the fuel runs out, he added, "the hospital will turn into a mass grave."

Hours earlier, Dr. Ashraf Al-Qudra, a spokesman for the Hamas-run Gazan Health Ministry, had held up the body of a dead child wrapped in a shroud at a news conference at Al-Shifa Hospital as he described the growing death toll.

The ministry said that more than 9,000 people had been killed since the start of Israel's relentless bombardment of Gaza, including more than 3,000 children. Many others remain missing or buried under the rubble.

Dr. Ghassan Abu-Sittah, a British-Palestinian plastic surgeon volunteering at Shifa's burn treatment unit, said the hospital—the largest in Gaza—had received about 70 patients from the strikes on Jabaliya since Tuesday, and many had no homes to return to.

Medical workers were being stretched to the breaking point, and normally preventable deaths had begun to soar, he said. Each surgery was turning into a grueling exercise of trying to use the fewest resources possible, he said.

The Gazan Health Ministry said 16 of the 35 hospitals in the Strip were already out of service from damage or lack of power. The maternity ward at Shifa was being used to treat the wounded, and expectant mothers had been moved to Al-Hilo Hospital, which the ministry said was damaged by bombardment on Wednesday night.

Communications with Gaza City remained spotty to nonexistent on Thursday, after a blackout for much of Wednesday left ambulances and rescue workers unable to find the injured, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said.

Ahmad Sardah, a Jabaliya resident who said his home had been damaged by the

strike on Wednesday, was able to send a quick message during a fleeting moment of internet connection before contact was lost again.

He said in a Facebook post he managed to write on Thursday: "If only friends and relatives who are outside could tell us what is going on around us instead of asking us how we are doing, because without internet and phone lines, all we hear is airstrikes and bombs. Where, how, why, and who? None of us know."

Dr. Ghassan Khatib, a political scientist at Birzeit University in the occupied West Bank, said that Jabaliya—both the name of a town and a refugee camp next to it—had a reputation as a stronghold of resistance to Israeli occupation for years.

The first intifada, an uprising that lasted from 1987 to 1993, started there after camp residents were run over by an Israeli vehicle, he said. Their funerals became demonstrations that spread to the Balata refugee camp in the West Bank city of Nablus and elsewhere, he said.

Tamara Alrifai, an official with UNRWA, said in an online briefing Thursday that the agency believed that about 30,000 of the Jabaliya camp's 116,000 residents had remained after Israel's order to evacuate under threat of bombardment last month. It was unclear whether they had all gone to the south, as directed, or to other areas of northern Gaza.

People displaced throughout Gaza have flocked to hospitals, hoping for a greater chance at safety. The Kamal Adwan Hospital is also housing more than 3,000 displaced people. Dr. Abu Safyia is among them, and barely sleeping. He said he sometimes goes into an empty room, shuts the door and sobs.

"These are people who had dreams, they had lives, they had a future," he said. "It all ended."

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, here is the situation reported from the hospital in Gaza: They will be out of fuel and electricity in 24 hours. Dr. Hussam told Dr. Sahloul that at this point, five children will die. The ventilators that are keeping them alive will be turned off. They cannot be transported to a better or a safer place. Turning off the electricity in some areas of the hospital will cause great hardship and pain. There is no fuel at the other hospitals either. In the north, they have basically been cut off from any assistance. It is impossible to transfer to the south because they don't have transportation, and they don't have the wherewithal—the ambulances and such—to do so. The desperate situation they have reached includes performing amputations with no anesthesia—performing amputations with no anesthesia.

I asked Dr. Sahloul: What do they use?

He said: Tylenol.

Can you imagine? Tylenol? They use vinegar because they don't have any access to iodine to be able to clean the wounds before the operations. Vinegar.

Every day, 200 people show up at their hospital, sick from the contaminated water which they are forced to drink. They are begging for help. They are asking for a pause so that basics can be provided: food, electricity, fuel, medicines—the basics. I don't think that is an unreasonable request, and I am sorry that they have been turned

down in their efforts to get this kind of help. There are 150 patients in this hospital—twice the number as usual—with many of them sleeping on the floor. And surgeries are performed on the floor.

I read this article last Friday and kept a copy of it. Now I will enter it into the RECORD for others to read as well.

At one point, Dr. Abu Safyia said:

We wish for death. It is easier than seeing the horrific scenes we're witnessing.

Twice now, this refugee camp, Jabalia, has been attacked by the Israelis as a site of Hamas terrorism. Unfortunately, on the first day of the attack, 40 people did not survive and 250 others were brought to the hospital. Then the attack took a second day but, basically, was the same as the last.

The doctor said: I've never in my life seen injuries this bad. He added: We saw children decapitated as a result of these attacks.

Asking for a pause in the war for the purpose of humanitarian relief is not unreasonable; it is humane and civilized. The United States is begging both sides to take that step. I will join that effort. I hope that this ends well and soon.

In the meantime, these innocent, helpless victims need to have a helping hand from the rest of the world. We need to provide the basics so they can survive. I will do my best to follow this closely. I encourage the United States to continue its efforts to ask for this pause in the actions for relief of the victims. This sort of situation in any part of the world cannot be ignored.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. MARKEY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The Senator from Massachusetts.

NOMINATION OF JULIA E. KOBICK

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak in support of the nomination of Ms. Julia Kobick to the United States Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Today, the Senate voted to invoke cloture on Ms. Kobick's nomination, and, soon, we will vote on her confirmation. With a successful vote, Ms. Kobick will become the 150th Biden nominee to be confirmed as a judge.

Julia Kobick is a rising star in Massachusetts legal circles. A Massachusetts native, she earned her bachelor's degree in government, with honors, from Harvard College. She began her career as a public schoolteacher to New York City's second and third graders. While teaching, she earned a master's in elementary education at Pace University. She went on to obtain her law degree, magna cum laude, at Harvard Law School.

Ms. Kobick then clerked at every level of the Federal judiciary—first, with Judge Dennis Saylor on the District Court of Massachusetts, then for Chief Judge Michael Chagares on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and, finally, for the great Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2013, following her clerkships, Ms. Kobick joined the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. She worked there until 2021 as an assistant attorney general in the constitutional and administrative law division. Her practice spanned a range of substantive areas, including healthcare, child welfare, administrative law, and constitutional issues. Since the summer of 2021, Ms. Kobick has served as deputy State solicitor, where she has primarily handled civil and criminal appellate litigation.

Ms. Kobick has received support from a number of groups, including from Massachusetts trial and appellate judges, former Massachusetts attorneys general, and her clerk colleagues at the U.S. Supreme Court—clerks who worked for Justices nominated by Presidents of both parties. Many of Ms. Kobick's supporters cite her dedication and character, alongside her superior skill and judgment. Unsurprisingly, the American Bar Association has given her its highest rating of "well qualified."

Perhaps the best evidence of Ms. Kobick's fitness to serve on the district court is the enthusiastic support her nomination has received from her own opposing counsel. A cadre of attorneys who has litigated cases against parties Ms. Kobick represented has praised her "meticulous advocacy" across a variety of legal proceedings.

From oral arguments before State and Federal trial court judges to appellate arguments before the First Circuit Court of Appeals and the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, the very lawyers who faced off against her in court have said that "her legal abilities and intellect are first-rate as shown through the clarity and persuasiveness of her written and oral advocacy." They have lauded her preparedness and performance under pressure, her thoughtfulness as a colleague, and her skill in diffusing "any contentious situation."

Over the course of her career, Ms. Kobick has embodied the highest standards of the legal profession. True to her roots as a public schoolteacher, Ms. Kobick has mentored public interest-oriented law students at my alma mater, Boston College Law School, and has served as a mentor with The Appellate Project, an organization that matches attorneys with law students of color who are interested in appellate advocacy.

Senator WARREN and I are proud to have recommended Julie Kobick's nomination to President Biden, and we proudly speak in favor of her nomination before the full Senate today. She is a dedicated public servant of the highest caliber, and she will bring a rare level of legal talent to the bench. Her unquestionable integrity, her impeccable reputation, and her depth in both humility and skill make her uniquely suited for service as a Federal district court judge.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote yes on cloture and then on confirma-

tion. This will be a judge all of you will be proud you have voted for.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I think we are all aware that parts of our world are on fire. The world is on fire in Ukraine and in Eastern Europe, and the world is on fire in the Middle East. I wouldn't describe the world as being on fire in the Indo-Pacific, but there are certainly embers, and they are smoldering.

I think it is clear to most Americans that President Xi in China, that President Putin in Russia, and that the Ayatollah in Iran are working together, and their objective is to have Russia dominate Central and Eastern Europe and to have the Ayatollah in Iran dominate the Middle East. The Ayatollah, of course, is funding and supports Hamas.

There is no cause in the world—none—that can justify what Hamas did to the innocent people of Israel. The people of Hamas are so evil they will kill you and drink your blood out of a boot. And President Xi and President Putin and the Ayatollah in Iran are just fine with that.

The third objective of China, Russia, and Iran is to allow China to dominate the Indo-Pacific and be free to make moves in Sub-Saharan Africa and in South America.

Parts of the world are on fire. America is about to find out what it is made of because the world I just described is not a world safe for America.

But as we meet these challenges, Mr. President—and by God, we will meet them. We will meet them. While we are doing that, I don't want us to forget about our homeland. We have a lot of problems domestically, and I don't want us to lose sight of them. I think about them every day. I know you do, too, Mr. President.

We still have millions of Americans who are too poor to be sick despite the fact that we have the best quality of healthcare in America in all of human history. Notice I didn't say that we have the best way of delivering that healthcare. But we have the best quality of healthcare in all of human history, but we have people in this country—many of them are middle class—who are too poor to be sick. Since the Affordable Care Act passed, we were told that it was going to make our lives better, that it was going to make health insurance more accessible and cheaper. Since the Affordable Care Act was passed, health insurance premiums have tripled.

We also know domestically that our border is an open, bleeding wound. It is an open, bleeding wound, and it is within the power of this Congress to fix that.

But none of those domestic problems that I just described—and I could continue with others, as I know you could, too, Mr. President—is hurting the

American people as much as President Biden's inflation. Not a single one. President Biden's inflation is gutting the American people like a fish. It is a cancer—a cancer—on the American dream.

In my State alone, in Louisiana—we are not a wealthy State. My people are pretty middle class. They get up every day. They go to work. They obey the law. They try to do the right things by their kids, try to save a little for retirement. The median household income for a family of four in my State is \$55,000 a year. A lot of States are above us; some are below us.

President Biden's inflation, which is manmade—and that man's name is Joe Biden—is costing my people, the average Louisiana family, \$806—not a year, a month, \$806 a month. That is \$9,700 a year. Now, imagine if you were making \$55,000 a year, and you have to come out of pocket with an extra \$9,700 a year. You blow through your savings. You max out your credit card. You borrow from your children's college education plan. You borrow from relatives. And then what do you do?

I know what some of my colleagues are thinking: But, KENNEDY, we are doing better on inflation.

We are, and I am so thankful. A year ago, inflation in this country was 8.2 percent. Today, it is 3.7 percent. I am so happy, and I hope it continues to go down, but it is important for us to remember what that means.

A reduction of inflation from 8.2 percent to 3.7 percent—which is still, of course, too high—just means that inflation is rising less rapidly. We still have inflation. Prices are still high, and they continue to go up; they just are not going up as quickly as they were. That is a good thing, but it doesn't solve the problem. That is what we call disinflation. When inflation is rising and we stop it from rising so quickly, that is called disinflation. But that is not what most Americans care about, although that is important to them. What they care about is prices going down, and that is deflation. We do not have deflation.

The point I am trying to make is, we are stuck with these high prices. If they get inflation down to zero, those prices are not going down; they are going to remain the same. They are just not going to rise as quickly. We are stuck. The American people are stuck with these high prices because of the Biden administration.

I could cite you all the sterile statistics you would like, but I want to try to describe in specific terms what it is like for my people to go to the grocery store, to have to—this is an exaggeration but not by much—to have to think about, well, do I have to sell blood plasma today in order to go to the grocery store? Do I have to draw down on the second mortgage on my home in order to go to the grocery store?

Since President Biden has been in office, consumer goods in the United States of America are up 17 percent,