

the deaths of seven aid workers in an IDF strike was a gut-wrenching reminder that even when a sovereign nation exercises the utmost restraint in the face of enemies to use violence as a first resort, even as our ally Israel takes great pains to minimize casualties among the innocent civilians who its enemies exploit at every turn, war is still hell. And for people in Gaza over the past 17 years since Hamas seized control, life has been its own sort of hell as well.

For years, the supposed authorities in the enclave have spent their time burrowing under the homes and mosques of innocent families and the schools of innocent children. They have used concrete and building supplies intended for civilians to build military bunkers instead. They have brazenly stolen the humanitarian aid their civilian subjects depend on. They have thrown Palestinians loyal to the political rivals off of buildings, and they have continually traded innocent lives for one more day to wage a war on Israel.

Iran's terrorist proxies in Gaza are responsible for the horrors of this war. Their hatred for Jews—and refusal to acknowledge the existence of the Jewish State of Israel—is the reason for this pain and suffering of the last 6 months.

America cannot afford to lose moral clarity about the conflict. But I am afraid that too many of our leaders are. President Biden expressed outrage at last week's deadly accident—an event his own administration acknowledges was a tragic accident—which begs the question of whether he is also outraged at the way Israel's terrorist aggressors violate international law by turning hospitals and schools into fighting positions.

Instead of welcoming Israel's swift investigation and efforts to hold personnel accountable for their mistakes—accountability that has been sorely lacking during President Biden's own administration—the President caved further to domestic political pressure.

He indulged his radical base and called for an immediate cease-fire. He embraced an alternate reality in which cease-fire wasn't exactly the state of play that Hamas exploited on October 7. A fantasy world in which leaving Hamas intact doesn't lead to further terrorism against Israelis and Palestinians alike. Unfortunately, the Democratic party has become unmoored from a long tradition of bipartisan support for Israel.

According to one headline this week:

Democrats fear Netanyahu may have undermined Biden's image among voters.

Apparently, the leftwing activists who can't seem to distinguish between terrorism and self-defense aren't just calling the shots at the White House but also on the President's reelection campaign. They don't seem to care that it isn't just a sovereign ally's leader they disagree with, but the over-

whelming majority of Israeli public who believe Hamas must be defeated.

Meanwhile, President Biden is reportedly taking a cue from the odious Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and considering labeling goods from Israel's settlement communities in order to ramp up the pressure on the Israeli Government.

Of course, this sounds like child's play alongside the claim of one of our own Senate colleagues made just yesterday, that on legal grounds, Israel's campaign against Hamas is genocide.

What on earth should other friends of America think when they see the way we treat allies under attack? How should they square the Biden administration's pledge to support Ukraine's defense "as long as it takes" with support for Israel that is, apparently, as soft as the will of the most radical elements of the Democratic Party?

This cannot be the message America sends to the world. Leadership means standing up for America's interests—from the Indo-Pacific to Europe to the Middle East—even when the most active members of one's political base aren't willing to.

Right now, Congress has an opportunity to model this obligation for a President who clearly doesn't understand it. The House has an opportunity to pass the national security supplemental, and America has an opportunity to show our allies and partners that they can count on our support and show our adversaries that they can count on our relentless intention.

NOMINATION OF ADEEL ABDULLAH MANGI

Mr. President, now on another matter, I have spoken repeatedly about Adeel Mangi, the nominee to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals: both his shocking ties to anti-police and anti-Israel radicals and Democrats' increasingly frantic efforts to whitewash them.

Nineteen different law enforcement groups have written in opposition to this nominee. As the senior Senator from Nevada noted:

Mr. Mangi's affiliation with the Alliance of Families for Justice is deeply concerning. This organization has . . . advocated for the release of individuals convicted of killing police officers.

No wonder law enforcement is aggravated.

But rather than confronting this blue wall of opposition honestly, some of our Democratic colleagues have taken to weaving conspiracy theories.

The junior Senator from Rhode Island came to the floor recently to explain that this is all part of a vast scheme orchestrated by a lawyer named Leonard Leo. Apparently, Mr. Leo not only controls police unions from Hawaii to New York, but his reach is so insidious that the Zionist Organization of America is apparently taking orders from a Roman Catholic. With shadowy influence like that, it is no wonder my friend from Rhode Island is terrified of Mr. Leo. Perhaps we should cut to the chase and ask Mr.

Leo who killed JFK or where he has been hiding Elvis all these years.

Well, there is one thing even my friend from Rhode Island would have to admit that Mr. Leo does not control, and that is Adeel Mangi's Senate judiciary questionnaire. To see Mr. Mangi's radical associations, one must look no further than that document. They are right there on the page.

Of course, both in his questionnaire and in his hearing, Mr. Mangi hid the full extent of his relationship with the anti-Semitic director of the terror-endorsing Rutgers center. He also hid the full extent of his paid work for causes Democrats find truly odious, like pharmaceutical innovation and fossil fuel consumption.

If there is any covert operation at work here, it is Mr. Mangi's, and our Democratic colleagues would be wise to figure out what else he is hiding. Indeed, the situation for this nomination has become so dire that Mr. Mangi took the almost unprecedented step of writing to the junior Senator from New Jersey to disclaim any real knowledge of an organization on whose advisory board he sits. Mr. Mangi tried to justify his association with cop-killing domestic terrorists by claiming ignorance of the full extent of AFJ's radicalism. It is the same see-no-evil excuse he attempted for his moral and financial support for the anti-Semitic center at Rutgers. Is this the defense of an aspiring appellate judge—that he was ignorant and careless?

My colleague from Rhode Island says Mr. Mangi is "as well trained and intelligent as any candidate who has ever come before the Judiciary Committee." My legal training is well behind me, but I am quite sure that it included basic due diligence. He may have "the dignity and decorum of an Oxford don," but an Oxford don knows to check his sources.

There are only two explanations: Either Mr. Mangi is so careless that he repeatedly neglected to conduct the simplest due diligence before joining advisory boards of radical groups or he joined these groups intentionally. Either one makes him unfit for this lifetime appointment.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, tomorrow afternoon, the House of Representatives will transmit Articles of Impeachment against Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas to the U.S. Senate. And the Democrat leader? Well, by all accounts, the Democrat leader will move to sweep the articles and the border security crisis that they represent

under the rug by immediately dismissing the charges. It is not particularly surprising given Democrats' history of minimizing the crisis at our southern border, but it is disappointing nonetheless.

The House of Representatives has put forward serious charges, along with evidence to support those charges, and it is not too much to ask that the Senate take this matter seriously and explore these charges before dismissing them.

In a courtroom, a case is not dismissed without the court taking the time to examine the facts, and the Senate, sitting as a Court of Impeachment, should be no different. The Senate should have a full trial and take the time to examine whether Secretary Mayorkas's actions warrant a conviction. Then the Senate should be able to vote guilty or not guilty.

One thing is absolutely clear, and that is that Secretary Mayorkas and President Biden have presided over the worst border crisis on record. We have had 3 successive years of record-breaking illegal immigration under President Biden. Now, let that just sink in for a minute. We have had 3 successive years of recordbreaking illegal immigration under President Biden. Fiscal year 2021 saw a record-breaking 1,734,686 migrant encounters at our southern border. Then fiscal year 2022 broke that record, and then fiscal year 2023 broke that record. If the current trajectory continues, it is likely that fiscal year 2024 will break the record yet again.

While there are always various factors that affect the flow of migration, there is a reason that President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have presided over 3 successive years of record-breaking illegal immigration, and that reason is the weak border security policies of the Biden administration.

From the day he took office, when he rescinded the declaration of a national emergency at our southern border, President Biden made it clear that border security was at the bottom of his priority list. Over the 3 years since, he and Secretary Mayorkas have turned our southern border into a magnet for illegal migration, from repealing effective border security policies from the Trump administration to abusing our asylum and parole systems, which are now providing temporary amnesty to hundreds of thousands of individuals here illegally.

Under U.S. immigration law, parole, which is the temporary release into the country of an individual for an extenuating reason, is meant to be used on a case-by-case basis only for "significant public benefit," like appearing as a witness in a trial, or "urgent humanitarian reasons," like a medical emergency. But under Secretary Mayorkas, the Biden administration has created a system of mass parole, with groups being approved en masse for release into the country. In fiscal year 2023, the Biden administration paroled 22

times—22 times—as many individuals per month from southwest border ports of entry as did the Trump administration.

Meanwhile, on the asylum front, President Biden's decision to implement a mobile app, CBP One, for filing asylum claims has helped result in hundreds of thousands of individuals taking up residence in our country, often for years, many of whom are unlikely ever to be approved for asylum.

Needless to say, the number of individuals flooding across our southern border under President Biden and Senator Mayorkas is a logistical nightmare. The Border Patrol is stretched thin, and U.S. cities at the border and across the country are being overwhelmed by the number of migrants. But even more than that—even more than that—this is a national security crisis.

Our country cannot be secure while we have 2½ million individuals a year pouring across our southern border. And that is not even counting the hundreds of thousands of known "got-aways"—individuals the Border Patrol saw but were unable to apprehend—the number of which, the Chief of the Border Patrol recently noted, is keeping him up at night.

Even some Democrat Senators here in the Senate have acknowledged that the crisis at our southern border has to be addressed, so I don't think it is too much to ask that we look seriously at the charges the House has brought against one of the chief architects of the Biden administration's lax border security regime, an individual so disconnected from the reality of the situation we face that he has repeatedly publicly asserted that the border is secure in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Unfortunately, I suspect the Democrat leader will continue his plan to sweep these charges under the rug. And with the President and Senator Mayorkas's demonstrated unwillingness to use the power of their offices to stem the flow of illegal migration, year four of the Biden-Mayorkas crisis will continue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Senator from Mississippi.

VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, time is running out. Time is running out for Vladimir Kara-Murza.

I was just at an event across the street with Vladimir Kara-Murza's wife Evgenia and their children. It was a bipartisan meeting of House and Senate Members and interested citizens. We all agree Secretary of State Blinken must secure the release of this U.S. permanent resident and Russian political prisoner, Vladimir Kara-Murza, before it is too late because, as I said, time is running out.

In the spring of 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza spoke the truth about Russia's evil invasion of Ukraine. The Putin regime

responded by arresting Mr. Kara-Murza and sentencing him to 25 years in jail for speaking the truth.

Only a corrupt regime would make it a crime to express an opinion to speak the truth. But that is what Vladimir Putin has done. He has arrested an innocent person and put him in jail for speaking the truth.

It has been a year since I led a bipartisan group of 81 lawmakers in an appeal to the Secretary of State—this same Secretary of State Blinken. It was the first anniversary of Mr. Kara-Murza's imprisonment. We urged the administration, on a bipartisan, bicameral basis, to label Vladimir "unlawfully and wrongfully detained."

We asked for that designation because that title is more than just words under the statute. It would prioritize Mr. Kara-Murza's case at the State Department, and it would unlock new tools for our negotiators to act with speed and success to get him released. And he needs that speed.

Since we last wrote the Secretary about Mr. Kara-Murza, nothing has changed; nothing has changed, that is, except his decreasing health and increasing danger.

Mr. Kara-Murza's family has grave concerns that he may not survive much longer. So we are talking about the life of this permanent U.S. resident. Before this prison term, the Russian dictator, Putin, had tried twice to assassinate Mr. Kara-Murza by poisoning him. He was indeed poisoned. And although Vladimir survived each attempt, the efforts succeeded in weakening his body.

And then when Alexei Navalny recently died mysteriously in a Russian prison, Mr. Vladimir Kara-Murza became the most prominent imprisoned democracy advocate still alive in Russia. The target on his back has now grown bigger, so it is all the more important that Vladimir be freed.

This week we reach the second anniversary of Mr. Kara-Murza's incarceration. This week, I am leading dozens and dozens of my congressional colleagues in another bipartisan, bicameral request to Secretary of State Antony Blinken. I encourage even more Members to sign on to this letter before we send it to the Secretary later this week.

For 2 years, despite the danger, despite the imprisonment, Mr. Kara-Murza has not been silenced. He refuses to be silenced. Every so often, from behind prison bars, he is able to tell the world his thoughts through newspaper columns, for example.

The world has benefited from his words. No jail cell or word limit has been able to stifle Vladimir Kara-Murza's advocacy. He put it well recently. Last month, from prison colony No. 7 in Siberia, he wrote, "Sometimes the most powerful tool of all is simply telling the truth."

Telling the truth in Russia apparently gets you a 25-year sentence. It