

to a group supporting President Biden's campaign and another called Stop Republicans—that is literally the name of the group that he donated to, Stop Republicans. In what world could that judge be allowed to preside over the trial of a former President—a former Republican President and chief political opponent of the incumbent Democratic President?

Or how about Matthew Colangelo, another key figure in this prosecution? How could that person be authorized to transition directly from a senior role in the Justice Department under President Biden to lead the political prosecution of President Trump with Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg?

This intertwining of judicial proceedings with partisan politics should alarm every single American, regardless of your age, regardless of what part of the country you call home, and, frankly, regardless of your party affiliation.

Now, let's not forget that Senator SCHUMER's brother, whose law firm has lent significant legal firepower to this prosecutorial effort—let's not forget that his brother is a partner in the law firm—the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison—the same firm that granted three highly paid attorneys a paid leave of absence to join the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, specifically in its targeting of Donald Trump.

We cannot stand idly by and act as if this didn't just happen and pretend that this whole endeavor hasn't changed—changed dramatically. We can't pretend that this didn't occur, nor should we. If we were observing such actions in another country, we would be discussing sanctions and shaming and perhaps a whole lot of other things, but certainly not silence. We wouldn't see that.

Now, as we prepare to honor the sacrifices made by the heroes on the beaches of Normandy, we are reminded that those brave souls fought and died, 80 years ago this week, to defeat dictators who ruthlessly wielded the power of the state, specifically to suppress and persecute their political enemies and anyone else who they thought stood in their way.

What would those American heroes say if they saw an American President cheering on a kangaroo-court attempt to imprison his political rival, his sole impediment to a second term in the Oval Office? Would they recognize the America they fought for?

It is with their sacrifice in mind that I call upon every Member of this Chamber to make it clear that we are unwilling to aid and abet this White House in its project to tear the country apart.

Now, Pandora's box is open and a sword of Damocles hangs over the neck of our great Republic. If we can muster even a fraction of the courage shown by the "greatest generation" on June 6, 1944, 80 years ago tomorrow, we may still change course. There is still time. They can still stand down on this.

There are more instances of reversible error in this case, underlying this conviction, than I have time to recite in these remarks. For that reason alone, it would be very easy for the prosecution to confess error on appeal. There is still time, but there is not much time left. Let's put this genie back where it belongs and never, ever let it come back.

I ask you, join me. Join me and fight. Push back on this while there is still time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

MARC FOGEL

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise this afternoon to highlight the continued imprisonment of Marc Fogel. Marc Fogel is a teacher whose career I will describe in a moment, but he is from Oakmont, PA, Allegheny County, in the southwestern corner of our State, just near Pittsburgh.

He has been imprisoned by Russia, and I urge my colleagues in the administration to continue to prioritize his release.

On August 14, 2021, Marc Fogel was arrested by Russian authorities upon his return to Russia to teach one last year at the Anglo-American School of Moscow, after 35 years of teaching history to the children of American diplomats at international schools across the globe and teaching at the same school in Russia since 2012.

Yes, Marc had medically prescribed marijuana in his luggage to help him through the year in dealing with his chronic pain. That pain came from a hip replacement. It came from multiple back surgeries, multiple knee surgeries, and a spinal fusion, which have left Marc with a permanent limp.

Marc broke Russian law by bringing marijuana into the country. Marc's worsening medical conditions and actions to bring in less than an ounce of marijuana into Russia should not require him to serve the full 14-year sentence at a Russian penal colony—14 years of imprisonment for less than an ounce of marijuana.

It has been 1,026 days since Marc's initial arrest, over 33 months ago. At Marc's age—he will turn 63 this July—and in his poor health—terribly poor health—continuing to serve another 11 years, or 130 months, in any prison will indeed be a death sentence.

Based on a review of Marc's records from the prison hospital, Marc's treating physician has expressed grave concerns over Marc's declining health. His spinal cord and knee injuries and a prosthetic hip have combined with neuropathy, a loss of feeling, in one of his feet to make the risk of a more severe injury a lot more likely.

Marc has already fallen multiple times. Every fall—every fall—heightens the risk of a broken hip or other severe injury that Marc will struggle to recover from in prison. The 33 months

have taken a toll on Marc Fogel's mental and emotional health. Where many other younger individuals in Russian penal colonies can have great hope for decades of life after their full sentences, Marc Fogel will be almost 75 years old by the end of his current 14-year prison sentence.

I am hopeful that Russia, seeing the time that Marc has already served and fully aware of his terribly declining health, will release Marc from prison on humanitarian grounds so that he may return to his family in Pennsylvania.

Marc's support from his family has given him strength over the last few years, but the phone service they rely on to contact him is unpredictable and goes down for weeks at a time.

My thoughts and prayers—and I know that is true of so many others who have advocated on Marc's behalf—our thoughts and prayers remain with Marc and his family, but we must also act, act to bring him home. That is why I introduced a resolution with my colleague Senator DAINES calling for Marc's release and urging the Biden administration to prioritize Marc's case in all—all of its interactions with the Russian Government.

I am proud that the resolution passed the Senate just last night. I am proud because this resolution shows the world—but more importantly Marc and his family—that while the news cycle may have forgotten Marc, the U.S. Government has not. This resolution's passage is also evidence that bringing Marc home is and will continue to be prioritized at the highest levels of our government; that the U.S. Government is continuing to explore all possible avenues to bring Marc home.

I want Marc and his family to know that we are working to bring him home; that we will continue our efforts until Marc Fogel is back having dinner with his family at his mother's home in Butler, PA, just north of where Marc lives.

ANTI-SEMITISM AWARENESS ACT

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I wanted to move to another subject, and the subject is one that I think so many Americans are concerned about: It is anti-Semitism across college campuses and in primary and in secondary schools but, of course, well beyond the boundaries of any school. It is an American problem. It is a problem across our society and even across the world.

Combating anti-Semitism has been a top priority of mine for my entire time in the Senate, and I have consistently taken strong actions to address this hate, including working to pass the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act since 2016.

Back toward the end of the calendar year 2022, I came to the Senate floor to talk about anti-Semitism, mostly through the lens of the horror of October of 2018 when a gunman killed 11

Pittsburghers and injured several others, including police officers, at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. That horrific moment in the history of the Jewish people and the history of the American people reminded all of us of how pernicious and how widespread anti-Semitism is. At that time, I was cataloging the numbers, the exponential rise in anti-Semitism up to that point in time, the end of the calendar year 2022, and how anti-Semitism had grown so substantially in that timeframe.

However, as we all know, since October 7 of 2023, since Hamas terrorists attacked the people of Israel and killed over 1,200 Jews in Israel, those numbers, which are high and exponentially high before, went even higher—an explosion across the country of anti-Semitism. The Anti-Defamation League has tracked the highest numbers of anti-Semitic incidents ever—ever—in the United States in 2023, and those numbers have undoubtedly continued to rise with the ongoing campus protests. There were over 8,800 instances, including 2,177 cases of vandalism and 161 assaults.

No one in this country, none of us, can tolerate any form of anti-Semitism, any form of discrimination abroad or at home, on college campuses, in the workplace, on the playground, in any setting in American life. That is why we must pass the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act, a bill that my colleague Senator TIM SCOTT and I have worked on for almost 8 years.

Our bill would mandate that the Department of Education consider a widely accepted definition of anti-Semitism in carrying out its enforcement actions, strengthening civil rights enforcement against anti-Semitism, just like that same office, the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education, is charged with investigating incidents of racial discrimination or discrimination of any kind on a college campus that rises to a level of a hostile environment on that campus.

The House has already passed its version of the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act. They passed that recently. We must find a pathway here in the Senate to pass this bill. This bill is co-sponsored by 15 Democrats and 15 Republicans all across the length and breadth of the country.

There are objections to our legislation from individual Senators on both sides of the aisle, which so far has blocked unanimous consent, but we are confident the legislation would pass if given a vote.

An additional point on this matter is relevant. I mentioned the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. That is the office that is charged with conducting these investigations of anti-Semitism but, as I said, also charged with the obligation to conduct investigations of racism on a campus or other forms of discrimination.

I have a separate bill that would add substantial funding, absolutely essen-

tial funding, to the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education. That office has to hire more people to conduct these investigations, to initiate an investigation, to expeditiously gather evidence, complete the investigation, and make that fundamental determination whether there is a hostile environment on a college campus for Jewish students, just like it would make a determination with regard to a hostile environment for Black students in the case of allegations of racial animus on a campus—make that determination of hostile environment or not, making that decision. Once they make that decision, of course, the college or university would be subjected to penalties.

But the only way that can happen, that those investigations can be commenced and be completed, is to have the resources and personnel. The Office of Civil Rights needs to hire hundreds more people to do this, and I think it is a worthy investment. So I would urge Senators in both parties, both sides of the aisle, to work with us to pass that legislation.

I think most of us come to this from a very basic part of our DNA. We know that this kind of discrimination, whether it is anti-Semitism or racism or other forms of discrimination, is a scourge on the country. It is a scourge, and I think it is an insult to our country as a country of free people. We have to figure out a way to combat anti-Semitism, and we can do that by passing the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act, but also to take other actions which will stamp out this kind of discrimination in our society, throughout our country, and throughout the world.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Vermont.

ISRAEL

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, last Friday, President Biden announced the elements of a proposed plan for a permanent cease-fire in Gaza. If accepted by both Israel and Hamas, the plan would prevent many more months of death and destruction, it would save countless lives, free the hostages, and offer a way forward to lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

In order for the plan to succeed, the President will need to use the leverage that only he has as President, that leverage with Israel, with Egypt, Qatar, Jordan, and others.

I believe it will also require a very decisive change in our own policy. After 8 months of relentless bombing and shelling, the United States should

stop—should stop—supporting a war strategy that has not only caused massive death and destruction but has failed to achieve either of Prime Minister Netanyahu's key objectives: total victory over Hamas and release of the remaining hostages.

Instead, 8 months into this war, Gaza is in ruins, tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed and many more have been injured, including thousands of women and children. Some 100 hostages remain trapped underground. They are subjected to daily abuse by their captors while bombs explode above them with no idea if they will live to see the light of day.

And on May 26, Israeli Defense Forces—using munitions provided by the United States—attacked a camp of displaced Palestinians in Rafah, where the Israeli military had ordered them to relocate to avoid bombing in the north. The attack incinerated 45 people and injured many more. Mr. Netanyahu called it a tragic mistake. In reality, it was the gruesome result of an ill-conceived, scorched-earth campaign that has gone on for far too long.

For years, Mr. Netanyahu used Hamas as an asset in his very cynical strategy to ensure the Palestinian Authority could not become an effective partner for peace. He steadily expanded Israeli settlements, roads, and other infrastructure in the West Bank to create conditions on the ground to undermine the viability of a Palestinian State.

His policies fueled hatred and violence among Israelis and Palestinians. Yet throughout those years, the United States has supported his government unconditionally.

The Israeli and Palestinian people are now paying the price for these failed policies. Today, over a million Palestinians in Gaza are suffering from acute hunger. Children are starving. The wounded are dying from lack of medical care. Children with life-threatening injuries cannot leave Gaza to obtain the surgery that they need in other countries. Hundreds of trucks carrying food, medicines, and other aid have been stalled in Egypt. And the sea pier constructed by our Department of Defense, using hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars, is in pieces.

Despite intensifying criticism around the world, Mr. Netanyahu has responded to his many critics—including Israeli citizens—with reckless defiance.

The time will come when the war ends. President Biden announced a plan to achieve through diplomacy what military force has failed to achieve. But whenever that time comes, Gaza will be uninhabitable. Two million Palestinians will be dependent on international aid for years to come.

Rather than bringing security and peace to the Middle East, I fear that the legacies of this war could be the opposite: more hatred, regardless of what is left of Hamas, more acts of violence against Israelis and Americans.