

pointed out, we are not a signatory to the ICC. We are not a part of that international organization.

Last year, the International Criminal Court indicted Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Israel has a rule of law. Israel has a system of justice. And Israel is not a signatory to the ICC; and yet they indicted him.

The International Criminal Court is out of control. It is a rogue international organization. And when they indicted Prime Minister Netanyahu, what they did is they put a moral equivalency between Israel's actions to defend itself and the barbaric attacks Hamas perpetrated on October 7.

Let's be clear here: When Hamas launched their terror attack on Israel, they were targeted civilians. That is a war crime. When Israel responds back to defend itself, civilians are going to get hurt in war, but that is not who Israel was targeting. They were targeting the terrorists who attacked them. That is legitimate.

The International Criminal Court destroyed whatever shred of credibility they had when they made that indictment. And if they are coming after the Israeli Prime Minister, it won't be long before they start coming after American troops.

In fact, the Wall Street Journal had an article that said "if the International Criminal Court issues arrest warrants for Israelis, Americans are likely to follow."

This organization is a failure despite its \$187 million budget. It has not been able to bring to justice dictators around the world. They have done very little. My senior Senator mentioned China. They haven't done anything to stop Vladimir Putin. They haven't done anything against Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. They haven't done anything against North Korea's Kim Jong-un. Yet they are targeting countries that have a system of justice and rule of law. That is not why this organization was supposed to have been created.

The ICC is a lawless, politicalized international organization that is threatening our sovereignty. This requires a strong response on our part.

The Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act was that response. It would have directed the President within 60 days to launch sanctions against foreign nationals who are involved with the malign activities of the ICC to target our American troops or our allies, for example. We need to have a strong response back to protect our sovereignty. When we are talking about, for example, sanctions, we are talking about assets, freezing assets of those foreign nationals or travel bans. It would have sent a strong message to all of those foreigners who were trying to target us or our allies.

Sadly, the Democrats voted down this important bill that would have sent a strong message. Their arguments were speeches, frivolous, meaningless. The Democrats said: Well, this bill targets our allies.

No, what this bill did was target people who were outside the United States trying to target our soldiers or those of our allies. It was targeting individuals.

Democrats said: Well, this bill imposes draconian sanctions.

Actually, if you look at the sanctions that this bill was proposing, the same sort of sanctions were done under both Obama and Biden 49 times. They said: Oh. Well, some companies could be held responsible.

Again, no. This was about individuals. It was not about companies.

They said: Well, the bill was poorly written, poorly drafted.

Yet this same bill had passed the House of Representatives twice—the first time with 42 Democrats voting for it and the second time with 45 Democrats voting for it, including 2 of our colleagues who are in the Chamber now who voted for it when they were in the House, except that when they came to the Senate, they voted against it.

This was important legislation.

Now, when the minority leader got up, he talked about the ICC being anti-Semitic, and he is right. The U.N. in general is another one of those international organizations that are anti-Semitic.

He says that he stands with Israel, against the ICC, but his actions speak louder than words. When he had the opportunity, he stood on this floor earlier and said that Israel should have new elections to replace the Prime Minister.

Well, folks, that action was with the same logic that the ICC was using when they indicted Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. It seems hypocritical that he can stand up here and say "I stand with Israel, yet they should have new elections" and somehow have the moral authority to defend Israel against the ICC.

In blocking this bill, Democrats were voting to not protect our soldiers; they were voting to not stand up for our allies, not stand up for our sovereignty. They were not supporting specifically Israel.

The appeasement-first policy of the Biden administration is alive and well in the Democrats in the U.S. Senate today. Americans, take note.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to add to what my colleagues have been saying here.

It is a big disappointment for us on this side of the aisle that our Democratic colleagues blocked this bill to do what needs to happen with regard to the ICC.

Senator RICKETTS was just making a really good point with regard to the blatant anti-Semitism at that organization, and it is not new. We all know this is happening, which is why it was a disappointment we couldn't move forward. It is also something we know that has been happening at the U.N.

I had a Wall Street Journal op-ed a couple of months ago when President

Biden was getting ready to go to make his last major speech at the U.N. I strongly but respectfully requested the President make his speech about focusing on the systemic anti-Semitism that has existed at the United Nations for years and to call out the true terrorist in the world, which is Iran. President Biden didn't make that speech.

I had a meeting with the U.N. Secretary General and now former Senator Ben Cardin, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. It was a bipartisan meeting with the U.N. Secretary General. You know, we pressed him. We pressed him hard on his leadership of the U.N. and the systemic anti-Semitism that exists in these international bodies, in these international organizations.

The U.N. is going to have a wake-up call with our new Ambassador, ELISE STEFANIK. I think she is going to really raise these issues, really press these issues. She is going to be a modern-day Jeane Kirkpatrick, who, in my view, was the best U.N. Ambassador ever under President Reagan. She is going to bring it.

So, to the U.N. Secretary General, stand by. You are going to hear a lot more of this from our incoming U.N. Ambassador. She is going to do a great job.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Finally, Mr. President, I just want to mention—we are focused on the ICC, and we are focused on the U.N., appropriately. This bill should have moved forward, and we are disappointed. But, you know what, we also need to focus at home.

Since the October 7 attacks in 2023, the explosion of anti-Semitism that we have seen at our so-called elite universities—I don't call them elite; I just call them expensive universities—on the campuses of the top universities in America, has been nothing short of astonishing and disgusting. I don't know what other adjective I can use but "horrifying."

These are the statistics from the Anti-Defamation League: From 2023 to 2024, their annual report on anti-Israel activism on U.S. campuses tallied over 2,000 incidents. Anti-Israel incidents of assault, vandalism, harassment, protest actions, and divestment resolutions between June of 2023 and May of 2024 increased a staggering 477 percent—477 percent—at the top universities in America. This marks the highest number ever documented by the ADL.

I witnessed this at my alma mater, Harvard. My wife and I went there. I don't always talk about it because I am not proud of it. This university has huge problems. I was there about a little over a year ago, walking the campus. I went to Widener Library. That is the big, famous library in the middle of Harvard Yard. I went to the reading room—during finals—of Widener Library, and there was a giant anti-Israel protest in this reading room. It was

shocking, what was going on at Harvard. As I wrote then, I couldn't believe this was happening.

I took a picture. That is a picture from my camera of this giant anti-Israel protest in the middle of one of the biggest libraries in America, the reading room at Harvard. It was a pure anti-Semitism protest. And I wrote then, in another op-ed in the *Wall Street Journal*, and talked about my experience.

My thoughts then turned to Harvard undergrads. Imagine if you were an 18-year-old Jewish or Israeli student or even a pro-Israel Catholic like me, and you wanted to study for your chemistry final in the Widener Library Reading Room on a Sunday morning. This was on a Sunday morning. Imagine being confronted by this protest—obviously condoned by Harvard's leadership and commandeered by the Palestine Solidarity Committee, which is the anti-Semitic group behind the notorious statement that held Israel entirely responsible for all of the unfolding violence in the immediate aftermath of October 7. Would you feel welcomed at Harvard's most famous library? Would you feel rattled and intimidated and harassed by the anti-Israel banner streaming "Stop the Genocide in Gaza"?

As Jason Riley has written, "If accusing Israel of genocide isn't defamation of Jewish people, I don't know what is."

If you were that 18-year-old student, would you believe the vacuous statement that had been put out a couple of days before by the Harvard Corporation, after it decided not to fire Claudine Gay, Harvard's president, that "disruptions of the classroom experience will not be tolerated"? That was a giant disruption.

So I ended that op-ed by saying this: Not all university leadership is so craven, morally bankrupt and afraid of the most radical, vocal sects of their own student bodies. As a member of the Naval Academy board, the contrast with the Naval Academy and Harvard couldn't be starker on issues like civil discourse, so-called safe spaces, trigger warnings, American history, and our unique and, yes, exceptional place in the world.

I know we are talking about the ICC, and we should be, but our universities in our great Nation need a huge wake-up call because as we look at anti-Semitism at the ICC and the U.N., we need to be staring at it in places like Harvard and other universities where it has reached disturbing and sickening levels, and I think it is this body's responsibility to do something about it.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

MR. LANKFORD. Mr. President, this week, we observe International Holocaust Remembrance Day. We honor the 6 million Jews whose lives were lost during the Holocaust, their families,

and the scar that has left on the world. The term "We will never forget" still rings eight decades later.

The end of that atrocity did not bring the end of anti-Semitism, unfortunately. On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists brutally attacked Israel with the intent to wipe Israel off the map. Hamas killed 1,200 people simply because they were Jewish.

People marched in the streets even in sections of America and on university campuses, screaming "from the river to the sea," meaning the obliteration of the Jewish people and the Jewish nation.

A few months ago, I stood at the Nova Music Festival site, literally within sight of Gaza. I walked through that area with a family. I talked to one of the survivors who was there that day. She is still reliving the emotion of being there, just doing an all-night music festival. As the Sun came up, terrorists came in to kill as many people as possible at that music festival.

In the immediate aftermath of that attack, it was clarifying for the United States that we needed to continue to stand with Israel. Terrorism is not done. Anti-Semitism has not ended in the world. We should continue to speak out.

In my State of Oklahoma, it is extremely personal. We have a lot of Oklahomans who are very pro-Israel because they love freedom and they love a functioning democracy. With Israel being the only democracy in all of the Middle East and having a thriving economy, we have a lot of economic connections to Israel. We have a lot of family connections. We have a lot of individuals who travel to Israel for both vacation and for moments to be able to reflect on their own faith. It is a common connection.

In fact, after October 7, my office and I were personally connected with trying to be able to help some families and individuals who were touring in Israel at that time find a way to be able to escape from the fighting and to be able to get out.

This is a very, very difficult moment, and it continues to be a very difficult moment for the people of Israel because all they want to do is to be able to live in peace with the people around them.

Within days, Israel is not just facing a war with Gaza, Hezbollah began to attack them from the north from Lebanon. The Houthis began to fire missiles at them from the south. And then within a few months, Iran itself began to fire missiles and rockets and one-way attack drones toward Israel, literally facing a war with individuals attacking them from the north, south, east, and west. Israel just wants to live in peace.

In the middle of a war, when a group of terrorists crossed the border and began to slaughter Israelis, the International Criminal Court determined it was going to jump in and make a clear statement. Great. Make a clear state-

ment about terrorism. Call out those who are attacking civilians and slaughtering people as they sleep on that morning.

But instead, the International Criminal Court released arrest warrants for Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, and for Yoav Gallant, the now former Defense Minister, for trying to defend their country from terrorism.

Myself and my other colleagues remembered immediately that during the war in Afghanistan, this same International Criminal Court was filing charges against American soldiers trying to defend the United States while they were fighting in Afghanistan. This is the very definition of a rogue court.

By the way, they are in the process of trying to be able to figure out how to be able to fix their image. So just within the past few days, the International Criminal Court has filed an arrest warrant for some of the Taliban leaders. Welcome to the 2000s. The International Criminal Court has now figured out that the Taliban are back, something the rest of the world has known and recognized for more than two decades.

This body had the opportunity to do something pretty common sense: Speak out and say we are not a party to the International Criminal Court. The United States has never participated in that. In fact, no President has ever even requested—Republican or Democrat—to join that agreement for the International Criminal Court. No one wants to be a part of that in the United States. I know of no Oklahoman who would say we want our troops to be under the authority of an international court. We are not going to do that.

Israel, by the way, has also not joined the International Criminal Court. They have no desire to also be under the authority of a foreign court. They have seen full well the U.N. anti-Semitism, and they have no interest to the international bodies trying to be able to tell them right from wrong, so they are not a party to it either. But the International Criminal Court has seen fit to be able to challenge and try to call out American soldiers and to be able to call out the leaders of Israel, even after they have been attacked.

So this body in the U.S. Senate had an opportunity yesterday to be able to speak out on that and to actually sanction and to allow further sanctions of individuals from the International Criminal Court and entities that cooperate with them to say you cannot come after the United States or after our allies.

It is a very simple, straightforward bill. It is a bill that passed with a very large bipartisan majority through the House of Representatives. In fact, it has passed twice now with a large bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives. But when it came here to the U.S. Senate, my Democratic colleagues shrugged and said no.