

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.

The Trump administration, I am confident, will speak out with sanctions against the International Criminal Court. They did during the first Trump Presidency. I am confident they will again. What I am not confident of is every future President after President Trump, if they will hold the same high standard to be able to protect American citizens, our soldiers, and to be able to stand alongside with Israel.

I have come to this body over and over and over again, and I have said we should speak out in these areas. We should speak out against anti-Semitism. For instance, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, that definition of what anti-Semitism is, that is a definition the United States was a party to more than three decades ago. Our State Department so recognizes what it means to be anti-Semitic and makes it very clear on that. But this body has failed to actually impose that same definition of anti-Semitism in our Department of Justice—for instance, the FBI—or the Department of Education.

Some may say, well, why is that even an issue? Well, ask the Jewish students at Columbia University, and they will tell you why that is important. This week, at Columbia University, masked students burst into a modern history of Israel class chanting anti-Semitic tropes and calling out to crush Zionism, in their class at Columbia University this week, during Holocaust Remembrance Week.

I think having a clear definition of what anti-Semitism is and calling out universities that would allow that kind of oppression on their own students, I think, is important. I think for this body to be able to speak out with one voice to say we are not going to allow American soldiers nor our allies to be called in by a kangaroo international court, I think, is important to us.

And this week, of all weeks, on Holocaust Remembrance Week, we should speak with one voice. To say “never again” means never again. And we will continue to stand with our friends and allies in Israel, and we will continue to stand against anti-Semitism here, there, anywhere.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

JANUARY 6 PARDONS

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to share a little bit of maybe a reflection on the pardons of last week.

Part of the reason why I do, after the President issued the pardons for all of the January 6 protesters, I had a friend of mine call me up because I had said that some of the protesters probably got swept up in the events of the day. But some of those protesters harmed police officers, and I can't support that. I said, when I say I wear this pin almost every day and when I say I back the blue, I back the blue, period.

I back them when they are beaten by people who came into this Capitol on

January 6. I back the blue because I am endlessly—over the last 10 years, I have been to this floor numerous times to mourn the loss of more than 80 police officers in North Carolina alone who died in the line of duty. I do this time after time after time.

The Republican Party is the party that stands for law and order and law enforcement, in my opinion. I have seen people excuse the protests in Kenosha and Portland as just mostly peaceful protests. The amazing thing was, when you see this on TV or you see it in the papers, they are saying mostly peaceful protests in Portland and Kenosha, and there is a building on fire in the background in and around a police precinct.

And in Washington, Federal agents were injured by law enforcement officials during the Biden administration. Every single one of us said that is inappropriate and those people need to be brought to justice.

Now, on January 6 of 2021, I was standing right over there in the middle of that aisle. My seat was right there. So when we were doing the certification of the election, you could hear people had breached the building. They were running around the Capitol. They were banging on doors. And, finally, my chair being right next to that door, we heard a loud crash. And I saw Capitol Police officers say, “Secure that building,” and run up there to protect the Members who were in the Chamber. And we were all here.

I saw some people immediately go to the Capitol Police so that they could take them to safe refuge, and they are the same people who have fundraised on a website that is called ActBlue. Fortunately, it has been taken down because I ranted enough. After a year, they finally did it. But they had a run for justice, 13.12. The alphabetic analog is ACAB, which translates into their slogan: “All Cops Are Bastards.”

How does this relate? They raised money on it. In fact, they even encouraged people to do their 13-mile run around police stations to disrupt and intimidate police officers.

Now, how does this relate to everything that is going on here? I was the last Senate Member out of this Chamber on that day. In fact, it was one of the Vice President's details whom I happen to know that came back to me and said, Now you have really got to go. I walked through that hallway, down the stairwell that is over there, into the train tunnel, and what I saw were police officers who were bleeding; they were bruised; and they were beaten down.

The people who did that were pardoned last week. To those people—and I will give the President the benefit of the doubt. I support pardons for people who should have never come into the building. I don't know if I were President, if I would have pardoned them. But I can actually, at least, understand the rationale for those. But I think if you back the blue, there can be no

equivocation on any exception for someone who assaults or murders a police officer.

The funny—not funny thing. The tragic thing is I just filed two bills that would increase the penalties for assaulting a police officer and increase the penalty for murdering a police officer as a Federal crime up to and including the death penalty. I want to send a message to those folks in blue that I, as an elected official and Member of the U.S. Senate, will never equivocate when it comes to backing the blue.

I would argue that if anybody has a problem with them, then call 911 and tell them you never want them to show up to your door when you are in trouble because most people know that the police officers who serve us and protect us in this building are great people.

I have this ask to those who have been pardoned—the QAnon Shaman who sat in that chair that the gentleman from Indiana is sitting in now and boasting over how he came into this Chamber, do you know what his social media tweet was when President Trump gave him a chance and gave him a pardon? Now I am going to go buy me some F'ing guns.

For the others who have been pardoned, be like a handful of some who have refused the pardon because they felt like they deserved the punishment.

For those who have received a pardon, view it as the gift that it is. Apologize to these police officers for what you did to them. If you do that, then I will feel like maybe President Trump gave you a chance to redeem yourself.

But if you come and spike the football in this Capitol Building and you pretend like what you did was right, righteous, or justified, please do not come anywhere near me.

It is important, for the past week I have told the police officers when I entered the building, I thought the pardons of those who assaulted police officers were wrong. I told every one of them. I said, I know you shouldn't react to it because you have to be apologetic. But I am a political person. I can say whatever I want to and then answer to the people of North Carolina.

But I thought it was important for me to come to the floor and record this in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: Particularly, the challenge to the people who assaulted police officers, show that you are remorseful. Demonstrate that you were wrong. Don't pretend that that pardon means that what you did was right.

For that reason, I felt compelled to come to the floor and make this statement because where I come from and where I have been my entire public service career, I will never stop backing the blue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today because, over the last 2 days, I