

Elder Scott dearly, as will all those who knew him. I send my deepest condolences to his family. May God comfort them in this time of grief, and may his love be with them always.

DETENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN AZERBAIJAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last year I expressed my grave concern about the Government of Azerbaijan's harassment and imprisonment of human rights defenders, journalists, and other civil society activists. Since then, the state of human rights in Azerbaijan has further deteriorated amid condemnation from President Obama and officials of other governments, as well as the European Union and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. I, too, wish to reiterate my dismay at the mistreatment of these brave individuals, and call for the release of all political prisoners in Azerbaijan, including Leyla and Arif Yunus.

Imprisoned and denied access to justice for over a year, Leyla and Arif Yunus are examples of the many activists and critics of the government whom President Ilham Aliyev seeks to silence. Their arrest last year coincided with the release of their report on politically motivated detentions, and since then their health has reportedly suffered significantly. Recently they were sentenced to 8½ and 7 years in prison, respectively, and face further prosecution.

Leyla and Arif Yunus, and all other political prisoners in Azerbaijan including journalist Khadija Ismayilova, who on September 1 was sentenced to 7½ years, should be freed immediately. In addition, and in accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights to which it is party, the Government of Azerbaijan, which recently chaired the Council of Europe, should uphold the provisions of its own constitution and end the persecution of civil society members, journalists, and political activists who are guilty of nothing more than peaceful expression.

ENDING THE SCOURGE OF LANDMINES IN MOZAMBIQUE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week marked an important milestone in the campaign to rid the world of antipersonnel landmines. On September 17, Mozambique, where two decades ago an estimated 200,000 unexploded landmines were left over from a brutal 15-year civil war, became the first country with large-scale mine contamination to have all known minefields cleared. While accidents due to unknown mines and other unexploded ordnance in Mozambique will occasionally occur in the future as they still do in Europe 70 years after World War II, the number is a tiny fraction of what it once was, and it will continue to decline.

The State Department recognized this milestone in a statement, which included the following:

Since 1993, when Mozambique emerged from decades of conflict as one of the world's most landmine-affected nations, the United States has been proud to partner with the people of Mozambique, investing more than \$55 million toward improving the safety and security of local communities through the U.S. Conventional Weapons Destruction program.

Through that partnership—which includes the international donor community and humanitarian demining organizations—we have worked diligently to safely clear landmines and unexploded ordnance, prevent injuries through community outreach and education, and provide medical and social services to survivors of accidents involving these legacies of past conflicts.

I have spoken many times in this Chamber about these indiscriminate weapons, which are triggered by the victim, whether a soldier or an unsuspecting child. They linger for days, weeks, years, and even decades after armed conflicts end. They destroy lives as well as livelihoods, making fields unworkable and roads impassable, crippling the economies of already impoverished communities. In recent years the United States has made important contributions to the worldwide eradication of landmines, and I have long supported funding for the State Department's humanitarian demining programs and for assistance for mine victims through the U.S. Agency for International Development's Leahy War Victims Fund, but the job is far from done.

The painstaking work of HALO Trust and other dedicated organizations and individuals in Mozambique demonstrates what is possible. We used the Leahy War Victims Fund there, starting back in 1989, to provide artificial limbs, wheelchairs, and rehabilitation for victims of mines. Melissa Wells, our outstanding Ambassador to Mozambique at the time, was a strong supporter of that program. Thousands of people have regained their mobility as a result. My wife Marcelle, a registered nurse, traveled to Mozambique and visited some of them more than two decades ago. With this declaration, Mozambicans can live with far less fear of being maimed or killed while working in their fields, walking to school, or just stepping outside of their homes.

This is a time to commend the people and Government of Mozambique and the courageous deminers, as well as those who have helped the victims of mines rebuild their lives. But as one who has worked to stop the use of landmines ever since my legislation to halt U.S. exports of these weapons was first enacted back in 1992, I must emphasize that landmines continue to threaten innocent people in many other countries.

We have come a long way since 1994 when President Clinton, in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly, called on all countries to rid the world of landmines. But we have not yet achieved that goal, and we should rededicate ourselves to eliminating this scourge from the Earth. The best way for the United States to do that is to

join the 162 signatories to the Ottawa Treaty banning the production, use, export, and stockpiling of antipersonnel landmines.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, due to the Jewish holiday, I was unable to attend votes this week. Had I been present, I would have voted against the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 36, against the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2685, and against the motion to invoke cloture on amendment No. 2669.

REQUIRING A REGIONAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THE THREAT POSED BY BOKO HARAM

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to praise Senate passage earlier this week of legislation I authored, S. 1632, to help combat the threat posed by the Boko Haram terrorist group. I am hopeful that our colleagues in the House will pass the bill quickly so that it can go to the President's desk for signature.

Boko Haram is a notorious terrorist organization. Less well known, however, is what the name means: "Western education is forbidden." This descriptive moniker helps explain the organization's determination to terrorize young girls who seek an education—girls who seek nothing more than a better life and a path to independence.

Following the horrific kidnapping of 276 girls more than a year ago, Boko Haram has continued to commit barbaric acts of violence against civilians. According to the Congressional Research Service, Boko Haram may have killed more than 11,000 people, with more than 5,500 people killed in 2014 alone. Boko Haram has also pledged allegiance to ISIS, a fellow terrorist organization, in an attempt to further their reach and increase their ability to intimidate the citizens of Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, and Niger. We cannot sit idly by while Boko Haram continues to terrorize women, girls, and religious minorities in these African nations.

Last year, in response to the kidnapping of the schoolgirls, I worked with Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI and garnered the support of all 20 women Senators in urging Secretary of State John Kerry to seek Boko Haram's addition to the United Nations al-Qaeda Sanctions List. Following this letter, the United Nations Security Council voted to subject Boko Haram to a complete asset freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo.

This year, I am again leading a bipartisan legislative effort to address the threats posed by Boko Haram. Specifically, my bipartisan bill, which now awaits consideration in the House of Representatives, calls on the U.S. Departments of State and Defense and their relevant partners to work together in creating a 5-year strategy to

counter these increasing threats. Co-sponsored by 18 of my Senate colleagues, this bill also signals a renewed congressional commitment to combating Boko Haram and bolstering U.S. efforts throughout the region.

While I am pleased that this legislation and previous efforts continue to move us forward in the fight against Boko Haram, more must be done. I will continue to work with my colleagues to create and enact legislation aimed at countering the violence and terror spread by Boko Haram.

We have a window of opportunity to change the course of the fight against this intensifying terrorist threat, and we must seize the opportunity. We must also ensure that the United States, as a world leader, is providing the assistance necessary to make this strategy successful.

We must never forget that the girls of Nigeria were targeted simply because they chose to pursue an education. We must send a message to women and girls around the world that their safety and well-being matters, that everyone deserves the opportunity to seek an education. We must also send a clear message to Boko Haram that their appalling acts of violence have no place in this world.

CHILD SUPPORT ASSISTANCE BILL

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter from the National Child Support Enforcement Association in support of the Child Support Assistance Act of 2015 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL CHILD SUPPORT
ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION,
September 17, 2015.

Hon. PATRICK TOOMEY,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR TOOMEY: The National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) is pleased to support your bill, the Child Support Assistance Act of 2015. Your bill will make even more efficient and effective the collection and distribution of child support payments to the custodial family. The targeted language of the measure strikes a provision of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) which requires a child support agency to provide 10-day notice by certified or registered mail to the non-custodial parent (NCP) to advise him or her that a consumer report will be requested to verify income and location of employment.

The custodial and non-custodial parent both continue to have a full range of opportunities throughout the legal process to contest and correct information, including information provided by a consumer report. This technical change affecting only child support will further streamline the administration of the program to ensure that payments are made to the family as quickly as possible.

As you know, the House Financial Services Committee passed a companion bill (H.R. 2091) earlier this year by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 56-2.

As your bill moves through the legislative process, we stand ready to work with you to

ensure its enactment into law, including providing additional comments from our members if questions arise about the effect of the bill's language and impact.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. If you have any questions, please contact me or Tom Joseph, NCSEA Washington Representative at tj@wajfed.com.

Sincerely,

ANN MARIE RUSKIN,
Interim Executive Director.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONWAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Conway, NH, a town in Carroll County that is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding. I am delighted to join citizens across the Granite State in recognizing this historic occasion.

Conway is located within the Mount Washington Valley and sits in the shadow of the 2,369 foot Black Cap Mountain. The town is encompassed by the Saco River watershed, including both the Swift and Saco Rivers, and holds portions of the White Mountain National Forest to the north and west.

Conway consists of the villages of Conway, North Conway, Center Conway, Redstone, Kearsarge, and Intervale and was first chartered in 1765 by Colonial Governor Benning Wentworth. The town was eventually settled by Joshua Heath, Benjamin Dolloff, and Ebenezer Burbank and is named for British Secretary of State for the Southern Department Henry Seymour Conway. Secretary Conway is often remembered for his opposition to the Stamp Act, thereby in favor of moderate taxation policies for the colonies.

Cathedral Ledge, Echo Lake State Park, and a portion of the Kancamagus Highway are all located in Conway, offering some of most scenic vistas in the State. From atop the ledge, you can look over the town and the surrounding mountains and rivers that make up the valley. "The Kanc," as many locals call it, has the honor of being the highest mountain pass in the Eastern United States with the crest of the road sitting high at 2,855 feet and stretching for 32 miles from Conway to the neighboring town of Lincoln.

Conway is one of the premier tourist destinations in New Hampshire. Every year, the town hosts thousands of visitors who travel north to enjoy the outdoor activities, dining, shopping, and culture of the Mount Washington Valley. Conway is home to hundreds of locally owned businesses, each with its own unique style and flavor. In a single day, a visitor could ride into the mountains aboard the historic Conway Scenic Railroad, canoe down the meandering Saco River, zip-line at the Cranmore Mountain Adventure Park, or virtually visit the home of the "world's worst weather" at the Mount Washington Observatory Museum. And during the winter months, Conway provides ample opportunity for downhill

and cross-country skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and both ice skating and climbing.

On behalf of all Granite Staters, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Conway on reaching this special milestone, and I thank them for their many contributions to the life and spirit of the State of New Hampshire.●

RECOGNIZING ANUPAM KHER

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize Anupam Kher, an Indian actor who has inspired many through a legacy of theater and film spanning more than three decades. Anupam Kher is one of India's most prominent theatre and film personalities. His contributions to Hindi and English-language film and culture are tremendous, and his exceptional career as an actor, producer, teacher, and author will serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

Born in 1955 in Himachal Pradesh, India, Anupam had a modest upbringing. After graduating from the D.A.V. School, in Shimla, Anupam attended the National School of Drama, to which he would later return as director. He was chair of Central Board of Film Certification from 2003-2004, after which the Government of India awarded him the prestigious Padma Shri for his contributions to Indian cinema. Anupam has appeared in over 100 plays and over 450 films, and he is considered one of the greatest actors of contemporary cinema.

In addition to his dramatic work, Anupam is an active voice for change, and he regularly speaks out against corruption and inequality. The United Nations recently recognized his efforts, honoring him as a "Champion of Gender Equality" for his work on their HeForShe campaign. In 2010, he was appointed as the goodwill ambassador of the Pratham Education Foundation, which strives to improve children's education in India. It is inspiring to see an actor dedicate his time and celebrity to promote social change.

It is an honor to serve a State with one of the largest Indian American diasporas in the country, and we were thrilled to host a talent such as Anupam Kher, whose career has made an indelible impression across the globe. Anupam's commitment to the arts is unwavering, and his myriad contributions to theatrical arts are a testament to his dedication to his craft. Anupam has touched countless lives and has changed the way the world views Bollywood and India. His work is worthy of the highest commendation.

I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Anupam Kher's continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO RUSS FULLMER

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Russ Fullmer, who has been the agricultural manager at Sidney