

Such a development would be further evidence of the need to strengthen existing democratic and human rights conditions on U.S. aid for Egypt.

According to information I have received, the law passed by parliament on November 29 would place all NGOs in Egypt, both local and foreign, under the supervision and control of a committee that would be dominated by representatives of the Defense, Interior, and Justice Ministries, as well as the General Intelligence Service, the country's top spy agency. Among other things, the law would criminalize work that harms "national security, national unity, public morals or public order" but leaves those terms undefined, allowing the authorities to bring such charges against any group they choose. Anyone convicted of violating the law would face sentences of up to 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$56,000.

The proposed law comes at a time when independent voices in Egypt are facing an existential crisis. Instead of passing a new NGO law that would allow both domestic and international groups to operate without burdensome restrictions, the Egyptian authorities have escalated their crackdown on independent NGOs, particularly against groups that focus on human rights, the rule of law, and democratic norms.

Over the past year, a court has frozen the assets of human rights groups and the personal assets of human rights defenders. At least 15 NGO founders, leaders, or staff—many from prominent groups—have been banned from leaving the country. An investigation into the foreign funding of dozens of local NGOs could result in criminal charges carrying sentences of up to 25 years in prison. This pattern of harassment and arrests is not a new phenomenon. It has been happening for years, and, contrary to representations of Egyptian officials, it is getting worse.

I urge the Egyptian authorities to adhere to their constitution, and the pledges they have made in international fora such as the United Nations Human Rights Council, by guaranteeing freedom of expression and association. I urge President Sisi to reject this draconian legislation.

I also want to reiterate what I said in this chamber on September 27, 2016, when I spoke about Aya Hijazi, a young Egyptian American social worker currently being detained in Egypt.

Ms. Hijazi, along with her Egyptian husband and five employees of their NGO Belady, has been accused of salacious crimes—accusations that the government has yet to corroborate with credible evidence in a court of law. Ms. Hijazi has been jailed and denied due process since May 21, 2014. She and the other defendants should be released immediately or provided a fair, public trial so they can defend themselves.

REMEMBERING DAVID BUDBILL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont is saddened by the death of the poet David Budbill, whose poetry celebrated the simple pleasures of life in Vermont and highlighted the lives of working Vermonters. He died on Sept 25, at the age of 76.

In the State that gave the world Robert Frost, Vermonters know and love our authentic poets. Through David Budbill's 10 books of poetry, 7 plays, an opera libretto, 2 children's books, and many public performances and readings, he became the most widely known and loved Vermont poet since Robert Frost.

He was born in Cleveland, OH, in 1940, and after attending Union Theological Seminary in New York City and teaching at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, he moved to Vermont—to Wolcott—in 1969.

He then learned to use a chainsaw and worked in the woods to make a living, while also writing poems about the people he met and about his experiences there. His first book of poems, "The Chain Saw Dance," was published in 1976.

Other poems and books of poems followed, and David gradually created a fictionalized version of his own community, which he called Judevine—a place where rough-hewn loggers, sawyers, farm wives, gas station attendants, and shattered Vietnam veterans struggled to make a living amid the rugged beauty of rural Vermont. That material was later shaped into a play, also entitled Judevine, which was widely produced, both in Vermont and nationally.

Then in the 1990s, Budbill's focus deepened. He began writing poems about his own life in Walcott, thinly disguising himself as "Judevine Mountain," an old Chinese sage, who somehow was settled on a nearby Vermont hillside. He wrote with the spareness, directness and clarity of the ancient Asian poets he admired. One short example is "What Issa Heard." Issa is an 18th century Japanese haiku poet. Here is what David wrote:

"WHAT ISSA HEARD"

Two hundred years ago Issa heard the morning birds
singing sutras to this suffering world.

I heard them too, this morning, which must mean,

since we will always have a suffering world,
we must also always have a song.

David wrote poetry and plays that tapped into and expressed the essence of northern Vermont, and he plumbed these subjects so deeply that they became universal through his pen. His rural characters, Antoine, Grace, Tommy, and others, are quintessential Vermonters, but they are also vivid human beings with the same sorts of hopes, fears, triumphs, and disappointments that we all experience. Similarly, his "Judevine Mountain" poems were expressions of his own life, but they continue to resonate deeply with

the lives of everyone who has read and loved his poems.

In short, David Budbill's poetry and plays accurately, meaningfully and profoundly depict rural Vermont—his place, that is also our place. They have a universality that have and will enrich lives in Vermont and in the larger world forever.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY JARECKI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Henry and Gloria Jarecki are two of my longest and best friends. I speak, of course, both because of our personal friendship, but also of their efforts with the important Scholar Rescue Fund, a program designed to provide fellowships for scholars whose are persecuted or threatened at home for the important work they do. This commitment is especially poignant, when considering that, as a child, Henry fled the Holocaust in Germany, ultimately settling in the United States.

Both Henry and Gloria have worked to bring about recognition and understanding of people of different races, religions, and cultures. To me, Henry has been more than just a friend. He has been a mentor and a confidant. Some of the happiest times for Marcelle and me have been with Henry and Gloria.

Dr. Henry Jarecki recently received the Order of Merit, Officer's Cross, in Heidelberg, Germany. The Order of Merit is the only federal decoration in the Federal Republic of Germany. This high honor is befitting not only of Henry's history, but of his long dedication to promoting the simple but sometimes difficult principles of freedom and liberty.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of Dr. Henry Jarecki's moving remarks upon receiving this prestigious honor be printed in the RECORD.

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

DR. HENRY JARECKI: ACCEPTANCE OF ORDER OF MERIT, OFFICER'S CROSS—NOVEMBER 17, 2016

OPENING THANKS

It is a great honor to receive this award from the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Joachim Gauck, a leader honored by Germany for transforming his experiences with totalitarianism into support for freedom, human rights, and democracy. Thank you, Minister Bauer and Mayor Würzner, for presenting it to me. Thanks also to Rektor Eitel for his thoughtful welcome. Let me also thank two special individuals who have played a prominent role in this award: the former Consul General of Germany to New York, Busso von Alvensleben, who is here with us tonight, and the current Consul General of Germany to New York, Brita Wagener.

I am of course thrilled to have so many friends and members of my family here with me at this special event, including my sons Andrew, Tom, and Nick and my grandsons Alexander and Tyler. Most of all, I acknowledge my wife, Gloria. It was on this very day in 1957 that the lovely Gloria Friedland became my wife. After 59 years of marriage, I think she deserves her own award!

SYMMETRY

This is a very personal moment for me. When I look at my life, I see that it has been defined by one thing: the desire to make unruly things symmetrical, to smooth over the bumps of life, and to identify and align the parts that do not fit.

This is how I made sense of the events that first took me away from Germany and have now brought me back, accepting an award in this most distinguished Alte Aula.

Over 75 years ago, I had to flee in fear from this very country that is now presenting me with this great honor. The Hitler regime had come to power less than three months before my birth, gaining strength by finding scapegoats for the troubles of the German people that were caused by World War I and the peace treaty, and from the ensuing inflation and depression. The Nazis alleged that the country's defeat, hunger, and chaos were due to traitors and to Jews, whom they called foreigners despite the fact that they had been in Germany ever since the Romans drove them here in the 70th year of the Christian Era. My family, which could trace itself back for generations, was unwilling to believe that this land of Goethe and Heine could be governed by a nativist group of criminals: "Surely they can't mean us," my family said. But they did.

We didn't believe it until we had all been arrested and stripped of almost everything we owned. Only then did we flee, first to England and then to America. America welcomed us, as it usually does welcome refugees, despite the occasional internal bigot. This rescue and welcome gave us the opportunity to transform ourselves into hard-working patriots.

The Nazis had forced us out of Germany but they couldn't force the German out of us. We held on to our roots. We held on to some of the language, especially after we heard our parents lapse into German when telling each other secrets. "Aber nicht vor den Kindern." Our father taught us skat and told us about Heidelberg, where he had studied before going to the front in the First World War.

Unlike some of our fellow refugees, we made sense of what had happened not by rejecting Germany but by re-engaging with it as soon as we possibly could. In fact, my brother and I returned to Heidelberg in 1951 to pursue the same medical studies as our father had.

Doing so was our way of re-assuming our character as Germans. Philipp Schwartz, the Frankfurt professor of pathology who fled to Zurich in 1933 and rescued over 1,000 dismissed German scholars, years later said of his work: "We committed ourselves to represent the true spirit of the German nation to the world."

This re-engagement, which brought my past and present into alignment, is the reason for my award today. In seeking to make the different parts of my life fit, I have engaged actively with both the city of Heidelberg and the city of New York. I have looked for ways to further strengthen the U.S.-Germany relationship. And I have felt perfectly at home in both places, perhaps, as my wife and closest friends would say, just a bit more exuberantly in Germany, like the eighteen-year-old I was when I found myself in my lost homeland.

REFUGEES

My U.S.-German outlook, as well as my own personal experience as both a refugee and an academic, give me a unique perspective on what is happening in Germany today and have brought me to a new initiative, about which I will tell you in a few minutes.

Germany finds itself at the center of a new refugee crisis, and this time the country is

courageously doing what it can to help. There were 60 million people displaced after the Second World War, 21/2% of the world's then-prevailing population. Today, there are 65 million refugees among the world's 7 billion people, less than 1%. The proportion makes today's situation sound better than it is, however. After World War II, most refugees were resettled within a few years. Today, a refugee's average stay in a camp is over 15 years.

During both times, refugees (we called ourselves "refs") remained controversial. Some people think of them only as weak, poor, and burdensome. Others think they are smart opportunists or terrorists just waiting for the chance to become violent or, at the very least, take our jobs.

We need an alternative narrative. I propose this: Germany's new incoming refugees are smart, strong, ambitious, and young. Our support of them now will yield great results for Germany into the future.

Throughout history, such refugee flows have always been with us. The world has in fact made the best of them; it has come to use them like an accelerated form of Darwinian natural selection. Faced with the turmoil and xenophobia that is a never-ending part of our flawed psyches and world, only the strongest and smartest, the most resilient and the hardest workers, are able to re-establish themselves. The philosopher Lin-Manuel Miranda, speaking of Alexander Hamilton, said it well: "Immigrants get the job done."

Their youth is part of their strength. Over two-thirds of them are below the age of 33. Germany's rapidly aging population makes these migrants just the people Germany needs for its future. They are, moreover, ambitious, smart, and anxious to learn.

COMMITMENT TO HEIDELBERG

My own life serves as an example of the accelerated natural selection premise.

As I mentioned before, Heidelberg readily welcomed me and my family and gave me an education that made me thrive. We have done what we could to reciprocate. Soon after he came to office, I asked the Mayor what I could do to express my gratitude. He suggested that I help to develop a dilapidated rail yard into a science campus that would attract talent from all over the world.

Over the past few years and through the Max Jarecki Foundation, Tony and I have worked with a dedicated team to develop a whole new part of the city—the Bahnstadt. I thank Mayor Würzner, his chief of staff Nicole Huber, Giles Hemmings, who manages the Max Jarecki Foundation, Tobias Wellensiek, who is not only our legal advisor but also the son of my friend of 60 years Jobst Wellensiek, and city officials who have helped make our Bahnstadt project a reality—including Mr. Mevius, Mr. Dietz, and Mrs. Friedrich—for their help. The Bahnstadt is one of the greenest developments in this country, with full access to new technologies, and within minutes of Heidelberg's preeminent educational institutions. This project is a great example of Heidelberg's successful integration of tradition and innovation, science and business, the past and the future. As the British writer G.K. Chesterton said, "Tradition means not that the living are dead; it means that the dead come alive."

I am fortunate to have had an outstanding team facilitating our efforts. This team has been led by the talented Tony Detre, who took the ideas proposed by the Mayor and helped to make them a reality. I simply could not have done this work without him.

Today, I would like to make several new commitments to the city and the university and to undertake a new partnership with the state.

Earlier today, we dedicated a new creativity-oriented adventure playground in the Emmertsgrund, a part of the city in which many families of modest means live, many of them from immigrant and refugee backgrounds.

Just as Mayor Würzner repeatedly looks for new ways for us to help our city, Rektor Eitel finds new ways for us to collaborate in the development of the university. He started by taking me to see the dilapidated Anatomy building and asked me to help restore it. He now asks for help in refurbishing the University's Max Weber House, an important part of Heidelberg's recent intellectual history. I point out to my many American guests that this university, my alma mater, founded in 1386, is the oldest university in Germany. It is indeed one of the oldest in the world. It, too, owes its existence to refugees: it was the Great Schism of 1378 that made it possible for Heidelberg, a small city at the time, to gain its own university. Two popes were elected that year—one in Avignon by the French, and one in Rome by the Italians. When Germany supported Rome and not France, German students and teachers in Paris were thrown out, becoming (yes, we see this again) academic refugees. This led to the founding of the university, bringing to full circle its willingness to take in today's refugees.

SCHOLAR RESCUE

This brings me quite neatly to my final topic of the evening: a scholar rescue partnership I wish to create with the state of Baden-Württemberg.

My own scholar rescue work started in 2002. Drawing upon my own background as an academic and a former refugee, I joined together with several other trustees of New York's Institute of International Education, or IIE, to form a new entity that would respond to what seemed like an ever-present need to rescue persecuted scholars. With IIE's long history of this work in mind, and with the blessing of IIE's President, Dr. Allan Goodman, who is here with us tonight, we formed the Scholar Rescue Fund.

Over the past 14 years, IIE's Scholar Rescue Fund has saved the lives and work of nearly 700 professors from 56 countries, placing them in over 350 safe haven universities in more than 40 countries around the world, including Germany. It was this work that led us, last year, to partner with the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, fostered by Foreign Minister Steinmeier and managed by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation with federal resources. I am pleased to see its Director-General, Dr. Enno Aufderheide, and Director of Strategy, Dr. Barbara Sheldon, here with us tonight. This program enables German universities to host threatened scholars from around the world, thus further emphasizing Germany's role and status as a safe haven country.

As evidenced by the history of the University of Heidelberg, this is a very old story. From the burning of the great library of Alexandria, scholars have fled persecution to safe havens, bringing their knowledge and skills with them and greatly enriching academic life in their new homes. The sack of Constantinople in the year 1204 caused its best scholars to flee from Turkey to Europe, and is said to have produced the European Renaissance. More recently, the U.S. benefited greatly from scientists and scholars expelled by the Nazis, as did the Turkish higher education system, which was rebuilt in the 1930s and 1940s by over 1,000 German scholars. As collaborators of the Scholar Rescue Fund for the past 10 years, Jordan's Prince Talal and Princess Ghida valiantly made their country into a safe haven for Iraqi scholars, welcoming hundreds of talented academics into their universities. And now Germany has stepped up to help.

The need today is very great. Scholars around the world are facing fresh repression and conflict. More scholars are fleeing Iraq and Syria, a new crisis looms in Turkey, and increasing threats to academics have emerged in countries as diverse as Bangladesh and Ethiopia.

Today, I would like to tell you about developing a new partnership. Over the past few weeks, several colleagues and I have met with Theresia Bauer, Minister of Science, Research and Art for the state of Baden-Württemberg, of which Heidelberg is a part. We have discussed an innovative idea to add to Germany's current scholar rescue efforts by joining together SRF, private funds, and the state of Baden-Württemberg. We are happy to have the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung as a partner who, with the Ministry, will support a new group of persecuted academics to be placed specifically in this state. The supervisory board of the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung just decided last week to join the program. I am happy to welcome the Executive Director, Christoph Dahl, today.

While the details of such a unique multi-lateral partnership remain to be confirmed, and we all look forward to guidance from our friends at the Humboldt Foundation, I can say a few things. First, this very much follows in the tradition of Baden-Württemberg, under Minister Bauer, showing leadership on such issues, most recently with a new program to provide scholarships to refugee students. Second, such a new program makes best use of SRF's power to find and vet persecuted academics from any country and every field. Third, it shows both the power and promise of private philanthropy to bring different groups together to find creative solutions to urgent problems. It is just this type of collaborative thinking that we need in our inter-connected world.

What we see now as a refugee problem may well become an even greater deluge in the near future as climate change devastates ever more of our planet, and technology enables tyrants to maintain power more cruelly.

We live on a tiny ball spinning through a largely empty space. And if we don't share this small world that we inhabit, it will be its end. Building walls is futile; equally bad, they put the people on each side into prisons, no matter how prettily they are wall-papered.

We in the so-called first world are, with our ferocious energy consumption, deeply implicated in the changes we see today, and the greater ones we will see tomorrow. More and more people will come to us, dragging their young children across the seas and the mountains to come to a place they don't know a continent away. We should feel deeply honored, but we must live up to it. If we don't, the liberties they hope we have will be lost to us all.

"Giess Wasser zur Suppe und heiss alle willkommen" ("Add water to the soup and make everyone welcome") is an old German folk saying. Those ancestors well understood that a meal cannot be enjoyed, a peace not maintained, and one's own not protected without sharing and compromise. It is a bit of German folk wisdom that has survived all imperializing regimes and their detriments.

Once again, I thank you for the great honor of this award and commit myself, in the spirit of true and authentic partnership, to do this critical and urgent work together.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT PAQUIN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Robert Paquin is retiring after 40 years working as a dedicated public servant in

Vermont and on Capitol Hill in Washington. Bob has committed his entire career to making the Federal Government a positive force in the lives of individuals and communities. He has accomplished much, particularly on behalf of our State of Vermont.

Bob, as Marcelle and I have always known him, was my longest serving staff member and is among the longest serving personal staff members in U.S. Senate history. He began in my Washington office in 1977 and then moved to Vermont to serve as one of my outstanding field representatives. He ended his congressional staff service 32 years later, in 2009, to take a leadership role at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, in the Obama administration.

On my staff in Washington, Bob worked on defense, foreign policy, and appropriations, and in Vermont, he supported my work on agriculture, conservation, energy, and environmental protection. He also helped to manage my Vermont offices and provided constituent services to countless Vermonters.

Bob brought Vermont values on conservation, sustainable and organic agriculture, dairy, and rural development to my work on many farm bills, affecting national agricultural practices, policy, and economics to this day.

Bob also helped to develop the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act of 1990, worked on its reauthorization in 2001, and supported my efforts every year to maintain sufficient Federal support for the Lake Champlain cleanup efforts. He worked day in and day out to nurture and grow important partner organizations in Vermont, including the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, the Lake Champlain sea lamprey control program, and many more that have helped to leverage Federal investments in conservation and the cleanup of Lake Champlain.

I strongly believe that land conservation is an important part of the heritage of every Vermonter. Bob worked on the ground to help establish the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, the Nulhegan/Conte National Wildlife Refuge and the Upper Missisquoi and Trout National Wild and Scenic Rivers. He also helped me as I fought for the addition of more than 100,000 acres to the Green Mountain National Forest, protection of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and establishment and expansion of eight Federal wilderness areas in Vermont. He also worked on the delivery of Capitol Christmas trees from Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest to Washington, DC.

Time does not allow me to catalogue all of Bob's accomplishments while on my staff, but his greatest impact may have been his simple and honest interactions in helping thousands of Vermont constituents with problems and requests over so many years. Bob

is known for his troubleshooting and advocacy for Vermonters in every corner of the State.

In 2009, I gave my highest recommendation to the incoming administration of President Obama for Bob to be appointed as executive director of the Farm Service Agency in Vermont. Bob has distinguished himself in that role—helping Vermont farmers recovering from Tropical Storm Irene, implementing new programs under the 2014 farm bill, assisting new Americans from the refugee community to start farms, supporting our dairy farmers through tough times, and nurturing his dedicated USDA staff across Vermont.

Robert Paquin has been a truly exceptional and dedicated public servant for Vermont and the Nation for four decades. I will continue to seek his advice, and Marcelle and I wish him and his wife, Theresa, all the best in the future.

TRIBUTES TO HARRY REID

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, as a young man growing up in Searchlight, Nevada, HARRY REID was an accomplished amateur boxer. During his 30 years of service in this Chamber, Senator REID has demonstrated time and again the qualities of skill, hard work, and determination that he learned in the ring all those years ago.

Prior to joining the Senate in 1987, Senator REID established a deep commitment to public service in the House of Representatives and in State and local offices. And before that, he served Congress and supported his young family working nights as a Capitol police officer while attending law school at George Washington University. As a Senate leader, serving as Democratic whip, majority leader, and, currently, Democratic leader, he has been a formidable advocate for his caucus.

In the Senate, Senator REID has been a passionate voice for education, environmental protection, health care, and renewable energy. His commitment to those who serve our Nation in uniform is evident through his support for military readiness and for our veterans.

The great Jack Dempsey defined a champion as "someone who gets up when he can't." In his many years of service to the people of Nevada and to our nation, Senator HARRY REID has proven himself to be a fighter who always answers the bell. I wish him and his wife, Landra, health and happiness for many more years to come.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I have had the honor and privilege of serving with HARRY REID for all of my 16 years in the Senate. He has been a resolute leader for our Caucus, a fearless legislator who has brought landmark legislation to the floor and a tireless advocate for Nevadans and all Americans. More importantly, I am proud to call HARRY a friend.

We all know the story of HARRY's journey to elected office from that small mining town in Nevada. The