

NATO

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for nearly 70 years now, the United States has led the Western alliance standing up to first the Soviet Union and then Russia within the organization known as NATO.

Whether the President of the United States was Democrat or Republican, Truman, Kennedy, Reagan, Bush, Obama, it made no difference. Standing up and supporting our Western European allies, standing up and supporting NATO was an absolute given and, frankly, not even a partisan issue. Yet under this President and this administration, we now have, for the first time ever in the post-World War II era, a real question about American commitment to NATO and to the Western alliance.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Trump administration to follow the bipartisan lead of the House Foreign Affairs Committee to support NATO and support our Western allies. It has underpinned peace for 70 years.

HONORING NEW YORK STATE TROOPER NICHOLAS CLARK

(Mr. REED asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of New York State Trooper Nicholas Clark. A lifelong resident of Steuben County and a star football player from my alma mater, Alfred University, Nick Clark honorably served his community and the State of New York as a New York State trooper. Since 2015, he has protected the people that he called his friends and neighbors.

Trooper Clark put his life on the line every day to serve his community. In the early morning of Monday, July 2, 2018, Trooper Clark responded to a call in the town of Erwin and was shot and killed in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, he is truly a hero for his actions and the sacrifices he made for all of us. Trooper Clark will be missed by the communities that he served and the lives that he touched. Together we stand with his family and friends as they mourn.

I thank him for his service to our community and for his bravery. I pray he rests in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this legislative body to pause its deliberations and join me in remembering and honoring the 29-year life of Trooper Nicholas Clark.

REUNITE CHILDREN WITH FAMILIES: WE WILL NOT STOP UNTIL EACH CHILD IS WITH THEIR PARENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMUCKER). Under the Speaker's an-

nounced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject matter of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to address this body, once again, on the urgency of reuniting migrant children with their families.

The administration's zero-tolerance policy has caused chaos and systematically torn immigrant children away from their parents. Many innocent children are still being held under inhumane conditions at detention facilities apart from their parents. In total, almost 5,000 children—let me repeat—almost 5,000 children who have been separated from their parents because of this zero-tolerance policy are still suffering.

Last month, U.S. District Judge Sabraw ruled that children under the age of 5 must be reunited with their parents within 14 days. That deadline was yesterday. It came and passed, and only about half the children were actually reunited.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. There needs to be consequences for the administration's disregard for the law and failure to comply with the Federal Court order.

The United Nations has noted that children who arrive at the U.S. border who plead for asylum with their parents is a legal form of entry according to international law. Many of these children are fleeing from countries plagued with gang violence and drug wars. The administration continues to highlight the threat of the MS-13. Yet the administration does not acknowledge that actually MS-13 is one of the reasons why children and families are seeking protection in our country.

Asylum seekers are not illegal immigrants. They are individuals seeking refuge. It is the law to ensure that asylum seekers are given an opportunity to state their case in front of a judge. Furthermore, separating children away from their parents is an illegal violation of human rights.

This violation of human rights is being exacerbated by DHS' poor record-keeping. Today the administration does not have the recordkeeping capability necessary to reunite children with their parents, and, instead, they are now relying on DNA tests to figure out what child belongs to what parent.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, 120 of my colleagues and I have called upon the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security to investigate on how

the administration plans to reunite children with their families. We are concerned that there are no records of the children to reconnect them with their proper parents.

The administration's actions are causing irreparable harm to these vulnerable children, and it is time for the administration to immediately reunite these families.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS), who is my good friend and distinguished colleague.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. CORREA for this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration has just missed their court deadline for reuniting the youngest children separated from their parents, and there seems to be no solution in sight for these innocent children.

Over 20 days ago, even before the court order, I led my colleagues in writing a letter to Homeland Security and Health and Human Services asking what their plans were for reuniting separated children with their families.

□ 1815

I have yet to get an answer. The American people deserve to know where the children are and how they will be safely returned to their families.

In a world where we can track nearly everything in real time, how is a Federal agency unable to provide answers to Congress on the whereabouts of kids in their care?

We are told that agencies did not coordinate their efforts. Did they not plan for this? Do they not understand the concept of interoperability that we have come to use within our administrations?

This administration's cruel policies are overwhelming our already burdened judicial and foster care systems, and the American people are stuck paying the price. It is time for this administration to realize that policy decisions have consequences.

Even the few children who have been reunited with their families will carry the scars of this appalling experience throughout their lives. We have already heard reports that some of the youngest do not recognize their parents as they are reunited. That is understandable. In fact, it is even anticipated. Families, as we are seeing, are traumatized. They are scared. They are heartbroken, as anybody would be in their shoes.

Mr. Speaker, I once again call on this administration to answer critical questions about the whereabouts of the children and reunite them with their families immediately.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California, Mr. SALUD CARBAJAL, my good friend and colleague.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am an immigrant to this country.

What has become evident is the cruel, self-imposed crisis that this administration has created. It has created a chaotic process for detaining and separating children from their families.

This is an administration that has now missed the court's order to start reuniting children, something that is unacceptable. We are talking about more than 2,000 children, kids that remain separated from their families.

About a week ago, I visited the El Tornillo detention center in Texas. I saw firsthand the conditions in which these children are being detained. I spoke to the children firsthand to get their own personal thoughts on what was going on.

They talked to me in detail about how they were woken up at 5 a.m. in a regimented fashion. They were rushed through showers and made to take showers in less than 5 minutes. They were given only 10 to 15 minutes once or twice a day for recreation, because they are out in the middle of the desert where it is extremely, extremely hot.

This administration has said that they are on track to reunite children with their families, but there is no clear plan. There are no details. There is a Department of Homeland Security four-point plan to nowhere that has been put forth. In this plan, there are no details. There is really an absence of a coherent process that will reunite these children with their families. This is unacceptable.

This is a self-imposed crisis and a cruel crisis that has been created by this administration. This is why we need a congressional hearing and oversight to get to the bottom of this and to really show the American people how misguided this policy has been and the inhumane conditions that have resulted from this policy.

America was once that beacon on the hill other countries looked to, in terms of how we treated our immigrants and those seeking shelter and asylum. We have lost that moral ground, because this administration has sought to destroy the values and ideals that our country has held up high for decades and centuries.

We also need legislation because, clearly, this administration reminded us that their zero-tolerance policy could be put in effect and implemented any other day again.

What this administration has done is un-American. This President has chosen to divide us again as a country, to go after the most vulnerable, and to go after immigrants in the most inhumane way. This is not the United States that we all love and care for.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS), my good friend and distinguished colleague.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from California, Congressman CORREA, for leading this important discussion.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to reiterate my alarm about the child abuse at the border.

Due either to complete incompetence, deliberate indifference, or both, this administration failed to fully comply with one of the first court-ordered deadlines to reunite innocent children with their parents from whom they were separated.

The Trump administration failed to implement an effective system for identifying and reconnecting children with their parents before executing its family separation policy. As a result, they have been unable to accurately report the number of children in their custody, the location of each child, and the immigration status of the parents, many of whom who have already been deported.

Adding insult to injury, it was recently revealed that one of the detained children under the age of 5 may actually be an American citizen. Such a mistake should never happen and should shock every American to their core.

This is a despicable humanitarian crisis created by Donald Trump, and one which the Trump administration has shown no ability to solve.

Despite the President's attempt to divert attention from the crisis, thousands of children remain separated from their families. This is a national disgrace. Every parent, every grandparent, and every patriotic American should be appalled by the harm that this President has inflicted on children.

We must all exercise our First Amendment right to speak out against this unconscionable family separation crisis. I urge my colleagues in Congress to make every effort to ensure that these children are reconnected with their parents. If the crisis proves impossible for the administration to fully solve, Congress must hold accountable those who are responsible.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my fellow Americans and fellow Members of Congress that I am appalled over reports of mistreatment and abuse toward children at the Shiloh Residential Treatment Center.

The facility is under contract with the Department of Health and Human Services, and is located just south of Houston, Texas. The Shiloh facility is owned and operated by the same entity that formerly operated Daystar Treatment Center in Manvel, Texas. Daystar was closed because the way they physically restrained children led to the death of three teenagers. In most cases, the children were hog-tied. Now, instead of hog-tied, they are drugging children into submission.

One child was prescribed 10 different shots and pills, including the antipsychotic drugs Latuda, Geodon, and Olanzapine; the Parkinson's medi-

cation Benzotropine; the seizure medication Clonazepam; and many, many others, such as nerve and pain medications, antidepressants, and cognitive enhancers. This is a crime.

A Federal judge in California, Judge Laughrey, recently explained: "Psychotropic drugs are powerful medications that directly affect the central nervous system. They are particularly potent when administered to children. . . . They are more vulnerable to psychosis, seizures, irreversible movement disorders, suicidal thoughts, aggression, weight gain, organ damage, and other life-threatening conditions."

The message is clear. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services needs to be reprimanded for letting these horrific actions take place, and provide answers to the American people. You cannot hide behind subcontractors. You are on notice.

Let me make this even clearer. The Federal Government must act at once. Stop placing these children in traumatic and dangerous environments that right now are causing children to suffer in pain.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in this argument, utilize their powers of congressional oversight, and call on the administration to end these procedures and abide by simple rules of decency and humanity.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), my good friend and distinguished colleague.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from the great State of California (Mr. CORREA), for yielding and for his leadership on this very important humanitarian issue and so many other issues before this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Trump administration missed its court-ordered deadline to reunite the toddlers and babies it kidnapped at our southern border with their families.

And, yes, I say kidnapped. I don't know how else to describe this. That is the only appropriate word to describe the implementation of the so-called zero-tolerance policy when there was clearly no forethought as to how children would be returned to their parents.

The cruelty and inhumanity at the border has led to nearly 3,000 children being torn away from their families and imprisoned. Instead of having a plan in place to reunite these families, the administration lost, destroyed, or never even created records, and clearly did not care or think about reuniting these children.

Now we have a crisis of a whole different kind: figuring out how we put the pieces back together, how we put the families together again. Some parents of these children have already been deported. Some are totally unaccounted for.

President Trump and his administration are utterly failing to fix this tragedy that they created. We have so

many tragedies in the world that we are reacting to. This was one that was literally created by this administration.

While we deal with this unorganized chaos and incompetence, the children still in custody continue to suffer irreparable trauma in unimaginable conditions, all because the President wanted to punish those who sought safety for their children and a better life in the United States of America.

We will not rest until each one of these children is back safely in their parents' arms. We will continue to demand information on how these children will be reunited with their families and insist that officials who took part in this tragedy are held accountable.

I have visited two facilities with my colleagues. One was in Elizabeth, New Jersey. We went there on Father's Day with permission from lawyers and the inmates to visit with them. At first, they would not allow us access. Finally, after we pushed and pushed, we were allowed to see five gentlemen, four of whom entered the country legally. They entered the country and immediately turned themselves over to immigration authorities. One came in illegally because there was violence at the border, and he then immediately turned himself over to immigration facilities.

They all had very sad stories to tell. I share one from a man, from which country, we can't say, but there was a lot of violence and drug violence. His partner was killed, and his business was destroyed. They went to the school, threatening to take his daughter. She, luckily, was not in school at the time. The thugs were looking for her.

So he grabbed his daughter and fled to America. He was in detention when they came to his cell at 3 o'clock in the morning and tore his 8-year-old daughter from his arms.

Along with my five colleagues, Members of Congress from New York and New Jersey, we asked to speak to the head of the facility, the head representing ICE, the head of the detention facility.

□ 1830

They said they had no records of where his daughter was. To this day, they have not reunited this father with his 8-year-old daughter. He broke down in tears.

I also visited a facility in New York City, Cayuga in East Harlem. This is a facility that I feel was very well-run. It is for foster care. Children are there in the daytime, and then they are placed in foster homes during the night.

Again, the children did not know where their parents were. The professionals said it usually takes them 59 days to find a relative, an appropriate guardian, or the parents.

I just have to join my colleagues in saying that this is a disaster. Mr. Speaker, 3,000 migrant children who

were taken from their parents at the border are still waiting to be reunited.

There are accounts of pregnant women being shackled in detention and callously denied prenatal care or medical attention when they are clearly experiencing symptoms of miscarriage.

On Tuesday, the administration missed the court-ordered deadline to reunite all children under 5 years of age. I understand there are more than, roughly, 100 children in this category. Very few have been reunited.

Neither HHS nor DHS have consistent answers about how and when any of these children under 5, or over 5, are going to be returned to their parents. In short, there is no plan.

There was no planning. They took children from the arms of their parents and did not keep records on where they are now.

Repeatedly, I have joined with Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS in calling for hearings in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Despite numerous, numerous requests from him and others, we have not had one single hearing about this humanitarian crisis being put forth by our own government. Yet, there is a hearing planned tomorrow on Hillary Clinton's emails.

The election is over. Let's focus on the crisis before us: these children.

Again, we will keep calling for and asking for hearings on this crisis before our country.

I want to thank my colleague for working so hard and trying to find answers. I support his work completely, and I will continue working with him and others to reunite these families who came to our country looking for a better life.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from New York for her comments.

Mr. Speaker, just recently, a 14-month-old baby boy was reunited with his mother. The baby boy was traumatized after being separated for almost 90 days from his loving mother. Not only did he look like he wasn't bathed for that time, but he also was covered with lice.

His mom said that her son was not the same since they were reunited. He hasn't been the same since they have been separated. He cries for fear of being alone. Her son is afraid of losing his mother again.

Another parent, Milka Pablo, received a different response from her 3-year-old daughter, Darly, when they were reunited in Phoenix after 4 months of being separated. Let me repeat: after being separated for 4 months, Darly did not recognize her mother.

Milka was met with cries of rejection, and Darly, the daughter, screamed as she tried to wiggle away from her mother's arms.

I cannot believe these small children are subjected to such conditions. Mr. Speaker, some are as young as 1 year old. One of these individuals—a 1-year-

old—was obligated to appear in front of a judge for deportation proceedings while separated from his parents.

These children don't have the rights to a court-appointed attorney and are clearly frightened, yet they are still forced—a 1-year-old—to appear in front of a judge and answer questions that, clearly, they cannot comprehend.

Many of these children can barely form sentences, yet they are expected to talk about the violence-plagued countries they are fleeing.

Even Judge John Richardson told a lawyer representing a 1-year-old that he was embarrassed to ask a baby questions on whether they understood the immigration proceedings before them.

The separation of immigrant children from their parents is unconstitutional and simply wrong. I demand that all families be reunited immediately.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, contemporary deportation policies are traumatizing families. The inhumane policy of separating families is terrorizing parents to detrimental ends. Currently, more than 1,300 families are going through unnecessary and harmful separation enacted under our current administration.

Last month, Mr. Munoz and his family crossed the border to apply for asylum. For 40-year-old Marco Antonio Munoz, the fear and anxiety became overwhelming. After being separated from his wife and 3-year-old son, Mr. Munoz strangled himself in a detention center in Texas. His suicide shows the fear they felt during the border crossing and on the road to safety in the U.S.

The law allows families to escape violence and prosecution by seeking shelter in the United States. Currently, the administration refers to asylum as a loophole and family separation as part of a zero-tolerance policy. This policy of zero tolerance is designed to deter and punish immigrants seeking asylum, making them illegal.

While we should all focus on the negative effects on the children, we can't forget the negative effects on the parents as well. Families that present themselves to border agents seeking asylum have not violated any laws. However, the administration is criminally prosecuting all immigrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

These families are following domestic and international laws, making their prosecution illegal and against our American values. We should not terrorize these families.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, unless you are an American Indian, we are all immigrants to this country. Whether we ourselves or our forefathers came to this country, we came to seek freedom, a better life, and a better future for our families. Asylum seekers, likewise, are not new. What is new is the zero-tolerance policy.

Zero tolerance is clearly a violation of U.S. laws. It violates international law. It is inhumane. It is shameful.

I ask that the administration come up with real solutions for these folks

seeking asylum. I ask the administration to follow the law, follow American law, follow international law. Let's do the right thing. Let's do the American thing. Let's reunite these families.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, Congressman CORREA is a valued member of this body and one of the outstanding members of the Homeland Security Committee, where he is Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency.

We are here today to call upon the President, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Congress of the United States to act without delay to ensure separated immigrant children are reunited with their parents in an expeditious manner.

On June 26, 2018, a federal judge ruled that unless reunification is not in the best interest of the child, a child under 5 years old must be reunited within 14 days of its order.

Yesterday was the deadline that this administration failed to meet.

To President Trump, I say "Time's Up!"

This act committed was not only mortifying, but an illegal act.

This individual has proven he lacks depth and experience, has violated the ethics that this country prides itself on, and he should be ashamed.

This is a senseless act that must not go unnoticed.

We must hold him accountable for these not clearly formulated decisions.

Yesterday, I met with faith and community leaders to bring attention to yesterdays' deadline, imposed by a federal judge, to reunite the youngest separated children with their parents due to the President's egregious "zero-tolerance" policy.

In our country, the rule of law and its implementation is an essential component of our democracy.

Twenty years ago, *Flores v. Reno*, also known as the Flores Agreement, established that migrants or immigrants could not be separated from their children for long periods of time.

Earlier this year, President Trump and his administration implemented a "zero-tolerance policy" of separating immigrant children from their parents upon arrival into the United States.

To be certain, the administration's plan was half-baked.

As the Founder and Chair of the Children's Caucus and as a parent and grandparent, I am outraged that the administration represented what they did not know and could not do.

They did not know the true number of the children separated, they could not reunite these children, and there is no plan for their reunification.

When Americans and the international community from all walks of life began to challenge this cruel and inhumane policy, the courts got involved.

It appears as if a fortnight was more than enough time for this administration to make a complete mess of this process, and in the process damage families—perhaps irreparably.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, fewer than half of the migrant children who are under five years-old will be reunited with their parents.

Studies have documented that when young children are forcibly removed from their parents, the traumatic experience engenders long-term negative effects on their physical and mental health and well-being suffers.

Stressful situations that would usually prompt physiological responses in other people—increased heart rate, sweaty palms—would provoke nothing in the children forcibly removed from their parents because their fight-or-flight response system appeared permanently broken.

This is outrageous and unacceptable in a nation which has a long and noble tradition of providing sanctuary to the persecuted and oppressed.

Last Friday afternoon, July 6, 2018, the administration asked for more time to reunite these young children with their parents, which again was nothing more than a tacit admission that its plan for separating children was implemented without a way to eventually reunite them with their parents.

After it was ordered to reunite these children, and in asking for more time to comply with the federal court, the President's lawyers asked "can I keep these children away from their parents for a longer time?"

My response is "these children have been away from their parents long enough."

When I visited the border and the federal detention facilities that housed parents and children quarantined from one another, what I witnessed was horrific and was echoed in heartbreaking audio recordings released by the press revealing children crying, aching for their parents, as all face a fate uncertain, and inconsistent with the American ideal.

I will never forget the little children I met during my visit to the border.

One baby, 9-month-old Roger, had been taken from his 19-year-old sister after she was prosecuted for crossing the border illegally.

Their mother is dead, and they were coming here to find family.

Little Leah, was just one year-old and was taken from a grandmother and a sister.

The pain was no less visceral when speaking with mothers wondering where their children have gone.

In South Texas I met Gabby, from Honduras, who had a 45 day-old baby taken from her, and while housed at the facility had not yet been treated or given medical attention.

Yesterday, a federal judge ruled that the administration's argument in favor of child separation was "tortured."

Put another way, the Administration has no leg to stand on.

Trump knows that he is advancing a cruel and inhumane policy, but he refuses to accept responsibility for this matter blaming, alternatively: Congress, the courts and prior presidents.

This is no surprise, of course: all who have watched this president know his proclivity to shirk responsibility for any of his actions.

In a bizarre turn of events, the President actually tried to blame the courts for his own cruel child separation policy.

A federal judge appropriately chastised the President and cast as "cynical" any attempt to blame the courts for his mess, which is entirely of this Administration's own doing.

Tellingly, the judge went one profound step further and indicated that the President and his administration knew—at least for over a year—that there was no facility which would house parents and children together.

Thus, when it proceeded with this new immigration policy, the President knew that the segregation of children from their parents was inevitable and chose to implement this policy anyway.

The last time this nation had policies that promoted the forcible separation of children from newly arrived persons was slavery: a dark and shameful chapter in this nation's history that we cannot revisit.

Earlier this year, President, in proclaiming April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, stated, "we must always remember that all children are blessings from our Creator" and endowed with value, purpose and human dignity."

It is time for this President and the administration he leads, to act with reason, foresight and compassion and immediately and completely rectify this crisis.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while the Trump administration has clearly taken steps to reunite immigrant children with their families, there are still 100 children under the age of five in the government's custody. The court ordered deadline to reunite all of these children with their parents was yesterday. The Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services must continue to make it a top priority to locate these children's parents and reunite these families in a timely manner.

The Trump administration's inhumane "zero-tolerance" policy was finally stopped by the President, but the terrible effects of this policy continue. DHS' poor recordkeeping has resulted in the prolonged separation of these children. Twelve of these children's parents have already been deported, making it much more difficult for them to reunite with their children. The Department of Homeland Security has had to resort to DNA testing to ensure that children are properly reunited, a costly and tedious process that prolongs the trauma these children are experiencing. This excess cost to American taxpayers could easily have been avoided had the Trump administration thought about the reunification process rather than solely focusing on separating children from their parents.

These children have already endured an incredibly dangerous journey from their home countries, and the Trump administration has subjected them to even more suffering. The American Medical Association has stated that separation from parents can cause lifelong psychological trauma for these children, particularly children who are under the age of five. Sadly, there are already reports of children who no longer recognize their parents after these prolonged periods of separation.

The Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services must take immediate action to expedite the process of reunification, and Congress must use its legislative authority to hold these departments accountable and ensure that these human rights violations are corrected. Children have been taken from their parents, and it is all of our responsibility to ensure that this administration are reuniting them as quickly as possible.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from