

for standing up to the brutal injustices of the Iranian regime.

Stories like this are tragic, but they aren't shocking—not in a country where dissent and free expression are denied and not from rulers who regularly use both domestic and international terrorism. This regime has its fingerprints on destabilizing campaigns, assassinations, and violence against civilians in every single corner of the Middle East—from the shores of the Mediterranean to the Gulf of Aden.

The Obama-Biden administration's Iran deal, the JCPOA, did not improve any of this bad behavior. It ignored Iran's nonnuclear aggression. It let Tehran continue R&D on enriched uranium. If anything, Iran's behavior has only gotten worse, and that bad deal is still doing damage.

This year, it will sunset a prudent U.N. Security Council resolution that had kept Iran from buying conventional weapons. This summer, the U.N. Security Council, with the votes of Russia and China, refused to extend this 13-year-old embargo.

Returning to the JCPOA has become a sort of mantra for our political left here in the United States. But really, the reflex to oppose everything President Trump does can be a gift to our adversaries. Former Vice President Biden promises to rush back into a bad deal without securing any improvements. He proposes we would be able to renegotiate the bad deal from the inside of it after tossing away any leverage in advance.

There is one right way to deal with regimes like Iran—toughness and resolve. That is why President Trump successfully restored an important measure of deterrence when he removed Iran's top terrorist, Soleimani, from the battlefield forever.

Even though Tehran is weakened by sanctions, political unrest, and economic unease, they are also emboldened by our internal divisions and eager to exploit rifts among our allies. We know from publicly released intelligence that Iran seeks to interfere in our own politics. We know that Iranian-backed groups continue to threaten our forces in Iraq and Syria. We know that Iranian proxies like Hezbollah pose a growing threat to our ally Israel.

Unity, strength and resolve are the way to defend our security and our interests—not capitulation.

PROTESTS

Madam President, now, one final matter. For months now, it has been clear to basically every reasonable American that our country can and must hold two sets of true statements in our minds at the same time.

No. 1, our country has unfinished work to ensure that policing is fair to everyone and that Black Americans do not feel unfairly treated or targeted by law enforcement. And, No. 2, the vast majority of law enforcement officers

are heroes, and the toxicity, anger, and actual violence that far-left mobs have inflicted on police men and women across our country is simply beyond the pale.

The American people want racial justice, and we want good, strong policing to ensure equal protection of the laws. We understand there is no contradiction here—none whatsoever. Most people are outraged by the killings of Black Americans that have shocked our country.

Sunday marked 6 months since the death of Breonna Taylor in my hometown of Louisville, KY. Our people want answers. Our Nation wants answers. Most Americans also feel sick when they hear about events like what happened last weekend in Los Angeles. Two sheriff's deputies were ambushed and shot while they sat in their patrol car in Compton. And then far-left protesters tried to literally block—block—an entrance to the hospital chanting things like “kill the police” and “I hope they [effing] die.”

Fortunately, both deputies are out of surgery, but the hateful climate that creates these acts is still with us. One of our two political parties should do more to repudiate the underlying climate on their side.

To be clear, Democratic leaders, including Vice President Biden and our colleague like the junior Senator from California, spoke up quickly to condemn the actual shootings of these officers themselves. That was absolutely the right thing to do—no question. But what about the underlying climate? For months, the political left in this country has put all its might behind a false narrative that says disorder is acceptable, riots are free speech, and law enforcement is the real enemy of certain communities.

One prominent national newspaper, which found a straightforward op-ed from our colleague, Senator COTTON, to be more than they could bear, had no problem publishing a submission entitled, “Yes, We Mean Literally Abolish the Police.” No problem publishing that—“Yes, We Mean Literally Abolish the Police.”

When the Speaker of the House was asked to respond to rioters illegally toppling statues across the country, she blithely responded: “People will do what they will do.” That was about the topic of statues. From one liberal big city to another, we have seen mayors and local leaders who apparently find it easier to propose cutting police funding and criticize their men and women in uniform than to denounce out-of-control riots in their very own cities.

Just yesterday, with this Los Angeles story making headlines nationwide, the junior Senator from Massachusetts decided to criticize police officers on his Twitter feed and proposed a nationwide ban on nonlethal measures like tear gas and rubber bullets—a nationwide ban on nonlethal measures like tear gas and rubber bullets.

We are now at a point where some of our Democratic colleagues survey the

Nation, survey the way law enforcement officers are being treated, and decide the answer is to keep rhetorically throwing cops under the bus—throwing them under the bus—and try to ban their nonlethal means of self-defense while they are at it.

The American people don't have any trouble rejecting terrible racism and discrimination and rejecting lawlessness, violence, and anti-police prejudice with equal clarity and equal force. They deserve leaders who can do likewise.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark C. Scarsi, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to finish my remarks before the vote begins.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, after the Senate Republicans spent 4 months dithering and delaying, last week, Leader McCONNELL pushed a partisan, emaciated COVID bill. It was so paltry and laden with poison pills that it was clearly designed to fail. And fail it did.

It is time for the Senate Republicans to wake up to the gravity of the crisis in our country and work with Democrats on a comprehensive bill that delivers real help to Americans.

Speaker PELOSI and I have already come down \$1 trillion from our initial