

The United States has rightly condemned these actions, and I applaud Ambassador Müssomeli and his staff at the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh for raising this troubling issue with senior officials in the Cambodian Government.

I am also encouraged that the international community is responding to Cambodia's recent transgressions. In particular, the World Bank has issued a stark warning that Cambodia's actions are jeopardizing the millions of dollars in international financial assistance that it receives each year.

I call upon Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Cambodian Government to end this troubling series of events. Although the Cambodian Government has released Mr. Kern Sokha, Mr. Yeng Virak, Pa Nguon Teang, and other high-profile political prisoners on bail, the charges have not been dropped and other dissidents remain in custody. The Cambodian Government needs to release all political prisoners and drop the spurious charges being levied against them. These actions point to the obvious conclusion that democracy, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights are no longer priorities or principles of the Cambodian Government.

I also urge the international community to increase pressure on Cambodia to reverse its recent actions and to demonstrate to the world its commitment to freedom and to allowing its citizens to express their political opinions without fear and intimidation.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### WELCOMING ROBERT MENENDEZ TO THE SENATE

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in welcoming our newest colleague, Senator ROBERT MENENDEZ of New Jersey.

I also want to welcome Senator MENENDEZ's family, who I know are justifiably proud of his great achievements.

And I want to thank our former colleague, New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine, for appointing an outstanding successor to finish his term. The people of New Jersey elected a top-notch Governor in Jon Corzine, and they will have another top-notch Senator in the bargain.

With FRANK LAUTENBERG and BOB MENENDEZ in the Senate, the people of New Jersey can be assured that they have two outstanding Senators in their corner, protecting their interests in Washington.

I have known BOB MENENDEZ for more than a decade. We served together for 4 years in the House of Representatives. It was during those years that Congress passed the historic 1993 budget agreement. That agreement—which passed by the thinnest of margins, just one vote in both the House and the Senate, without a single Re-

publican vote—put the Federal budget back on the course of fiscal responsibility after 12 straight years of ever larger deficits. It also made smart, targeted investments in America's greatest resource: our people—to enable more Americans to realize the American dream.

That dream is no slogan to BOB MENENDEZ; it is the story of his life.

Like my mother, Senator MENENDEZ's parents came to America from a nation that had lost its freedom. In my mother's case, it was Lithuania. In his parents' case, the land was Cuba.

Like so many first-generation Americans throughout our history, Senator MENENDEZ inherited from his parents a deep appreciation for American freedom and opportunity, as well as a deep sense of personal responsibility to help preserve and expand those blessings for all Americans.

Senator MENENDEZ entered public service at the age of 19, when he launched a successful petition drive to reform his local school board, and he has been fighting for education and opportunities for working families ever since. He has been a mayor, State legislator, House Member, and now, U.S. Senator.

He has never backed away from a fight—even to the point of wearing a bullet-proof vest when he challenged the political establishment in his hometown of Union City and led a coalition of reformers in cleaning it up.

He is the highest ranking Hispanic in the history of the House, and a proven leader. And I am proud today to call him "my fellow Senator."

Welcome to the U.S. Senate, Senator MENENDEZ.●

##### MASS EVACUATION EXERCISE ASSISTANCE ACT

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have introduced the Mass Evacuation Exercise Assistance Act, S. 2043. As we witnessed in the wake of recent natural disasters, our cities face special challenges and vulnerabilities when disaster strikes.

Part of disaster preparation at any level of government includes having well prepared and practiced evacuation plans. Otherwise, citizens can easily become trapped without food or water in a devastated area or along an escape route. To help cities prepare for future emergencies and evacuations, this bill will authorize a new 5-year grant program that will endow local governments with the funds to develop comprehensive evacuation plans, stage drills and exercises to perfect evacuation procedures, and stockpile materials to supply evacuation staging areas and evacuation routes. This legislation will serve to supplement existing grant programs rather than compete for already scarce homeland security grant funding.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in this effort that will simply provide cities and States with the proper

planning, preparation, and resources to ensure that their citizens will be evacuated quickly and safely should a natural disaster or terrorist attack occur. Our citizens deserve no less.●

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL BRETT LEE LUNDSTROM

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to CPL Brett Lundstrom and his heroic service to our country. As a member of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force based in North Carolina, Corporal Lundstrom was killed in action near Fallujah on January 7, 2006 while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Brett was born in Vermillion, SD, and he was a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Brett, who was also the proud son of a marine who served his country for 20 years, chose to follow in his father Ed Lundstrom's footsteps. By enlisting in the Marine Corps following the September 11th terrorist attacks, Brett firmly believed he could make a difference.

Doyla Lundstrom, Brett's mother, remembers her son as someone who "loved people, and people loved Brett." Brett's friendly personality was infectious and "he lit up a room when he walked in." A true soldier, Ed recalled that Brett believed in his mission. Without question, he was an exemplary soldier and an example for all those with whom he served.

Brett's goodwill and service touched the lives of many people. Although his life was cut short, he continues to inspire all those who knew him. Our Nation owes him a debt of gratitude, and the best way to honor his life is to emulate his commitment to our country.

Mr. President, I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my deepest sympathy to the family of CPL Brett Lundstrom. He will be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.●

#### PRIVATE JONATHAN R. PFENDER

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Evansville. Jonathan Pfender, 22 years old, died on December 30 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during a patrol in Bayji, Iraq. With his entire life before him, Jonathan risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A 2001 graduate of North Posey High School, Jonathan decided to leave his job at the Evansville Pizza Hut to pursue a career in the Army. According to his mother, Jonathan was not satisfied with the direction his life was taking and decided to change course by joining the military, an idea he had contemplated since junior high school. Remembered as a likeable, fun-loving and passionate young man who loved serving in the Army, Jonathan was the