

NOT VOTIN—32

Alexander	DeMint	McCaskill
Allard	Ensign	Murkowski
Bond	Gregg	Murray
Boxer	Hagel	Nelson (NE)
Bunning	Hutchison	Obama
Chambliss	Inhofe	Shelby
Coburn	Kennedy	Stabenow
Coleman	Landrieu	Stevens
Corker	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Martinez	Vitter
Craig	McCain	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 65, the nays are 3. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

39TH BIENNIAL CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF AMERICA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to welcome the 39th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress of the Greek Orthodox Church of America to Washington, D.C. This is a gathering of the clergy and lay leaders of the 550 parishes across the country with their hierarchs—bishops and metropolitans.

I am pleased that the metropolitan with jurisdiction over my State, Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, and the parishes from Ely, Las Vegas, McGill, and Reno are well represented at this meeting. The Greek Orthodox community in America is an integral part of our national mosaic. My State of Nevada has many very successful citizens in both the government and private sectors whose families trace their origins to Greece.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, the leader and representative of this national community, serves as Exarch of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew—the spiritual leader of millions of Orthodox Christians around the world. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who on June 29, 2008, celebrated mass with Pope Benedict XVI at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, has also been awarded the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow, the Congressional Gold Medal.

With the blessings of Archbishop Demetrios, and under the leadership of the Order of St. Andrew of the Greek

Orthodox Church, the Greek Orthodox community has been an invaluable source of information for the United States Senate with regard to the numerous issues facing the nearly 2,000 year-old Ecumenical Patriarchate.

As a result of this warm relationship, on November 29, 2006, 73 U.S. Senators, including myself, signed a letter to President Bush expressing great concern about the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey. According to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom's May 2008 annual report, legal recognition of religious minorities, such as the Greek Orthodox community, "has not been implemented in Turkish law and practice."

On behalf of my fellow Senators, I wish to welcome the priests and lay leaders in the 550 parishes across the country, the bishops, the Metropolitans of Chicago, Pittsburgh, Boston, Denver, Atlanta, Detroit, San Francisco, and New Jersey; the Archbishops, and especially the Greek Orthodox community of Nevada to this year's Clergy-Laity Congress here in Washington, DC. I wish all of you the best for a successful and productive event.

13TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SREBRENICA MASSACRE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to mark the 13th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre.

Between July 12 and July 16, 1995, an estimated 8,000 Bosniak Muslim men and boys were slaughtered in the region of Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was the largest mass murder in Europe since the Second World War. The killings were committed by the Army of the Republika Srpska, under the direct command of Ratko Mladic, and with the approval of Republika Srpska President Radovan Karadzic.

The atrocities in Srebrenica were documented in the November 1995 indictment of Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY:

"SAFE AREA" OF SREBRENICA

1. After war erupted in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnian Serb military forces occupied Bosnian Muslim villages in the eastern part of the country, resulting in an exodus of Bosnian Muslims to enclaves in Gorazde, Zepa, Tuzla, and Srebrenica. All of the events referred to in this indictment took place in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. On 16 April 1993, the Security Council of the United Nations, acting pursuant to Chapter VII of its Charter, adopted resolution 819, in which it demanded that all parties to the conflict in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina treat Srebrenica and its surroundings as a safe area which should be free from any armed attack or any other hostile act. Resolution 819 was reaffirmed by Resolution 824 on 6 May 1993 and by Resolution 836 on 4 June 1993.

3. Before the attack by Bosnian Serb forces, as described in this indictment, the

estimated Bosnian Muslim population in the safe area of Srebrenica was approximately 60,000.

ATTACK ON THE SAFE AREA OF SREBRENICA

4. On or about 6 July 1995, the Bosnian Serb army shelled Srebrenica and attacked United Nations observation posts that were manned by Dutch soldiers and located in the safe area. The attack on the Srebrenica safe area by the Bosnian Serb army continued through 11 July 1995, when the first units of the attacking Bosnian Serb forces entered Srebrenica.

5. The Bosnian Muslim men, women and children who remained in Srebrenica after the beginning of the Bosnian Serb attack took two courses of action. Several thousand women, children and some mostly elderly men fled to the UN compound in Potocari, located within the safe area of Srebrenica, where they sought the protection of the Dutch battalion responsible for the compound. They remained at the compound from 11 July 1995 until 13 July 1995, when they were all evacuated by buses and trucks under the control of and operated by Bosnian Serb military personnel.

6. A second group of approximately 15,000 Bosnian Muslim men, with some women and children, gathered at Susnjari during the evening hours of 11 July 1995 and fled, in a huge column, through the woods towards Tuzla. Approximately one-third of this group consisted of armed Bosnian military personnel and armed civilians. The rest were unarmed civilians.

EVENTS IN POTOCARI

7. On 11 July 1995 and 12 July 1995, Ratko Mladic and members of his staff met in Bratunac with Dutch military officers and representatives of the Muslim refugees from Potocari. At these meetings, Ratko Mladic informed them, among other things, that Bosnian Muslim soldiers who surrendered their weapons would be treated as prisoners of war according to the Geneva Conventions and that refugees evacuated from Potocari would not be hurt.

8. On or about 12 July 1995, Bosnian Serb military forces burned and looted Bosnian Muslim houses in and around Potocari.

9. On or about 12 July 1995, in the morning hours, Bosnian Serb military forces arrived at the UN military compound in Potocari and its environs.

10. On or about 12 July 1995, Ratko Mladic arrived in Potocari, accompanied by his military aides and a television crew. He falsely and repeatedly told Bosnian Muslims in and around Potocari that they would not be harmed and that they would be safely transported out of Srebrenica.

11. On or about 12 July 1995, at the direction and in the presence of Ratko Mladic, approximately 50-60 buses and trucks arrived near the UN military compound in Potocari. Shortly after the arrival of these vehicles, the evacuation process of Bosnian Muslim refugees started. As Muslim women, children and men started to board the buses and trucks, Bosnian Serb military personnel separated the men from the women and children. This selection and separation of Muslim men took place in the presence of and at the direction of Ratko Mladic.

12. The Bosnian Muslim men who had been separated from other refugees were taken to diverse locations in and around Potocari. On or about 12 July 1995, Ratko Mladic and Bosnian Serb military personnel under his command, informed some of these Muslim men that they would be evacuated and exchanged for Bosnian Serbs being held in Tuzla.

13. Most of the Muslim men who had been separated from the other refugees in Potocari were transported to Bratunac and then to the area of Karakaj, where they were