

Ms. McCarthy is supremely qualified to succeed in that task. Throughout her 25 years of experience at the State level, she has proven to be practical and intelligent in her approach to protecting the environment. She most recently served as the commissioner for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection—DEP—and was appointed to this post by Republican Governor M. Jodi Rell in December 2004. Prior to serving in this capacity, Ms. McCarthy worked on environmental issues for 20 years at the State and local level in Massachusetts. She served as the deputy secretary of operations for the Massachusetts Office of Commonwealth Development, a “super Secretariat” that coordinates policies and programs of that state’s environmental, transportation, energy and housing agencies. She was appointed to this position by then-Governor Mitt Romney.

Ms. McCarthy is known for her active role as Connecticut DEP commissioner in promoting the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, RGGI, a cooperative initiative by 10 Northeastern States, including New Jersey, to implement a cap-and-trade program for greenhouse gas emissions from powerplants. That experience will serve her well when she is tasked with implementing the climate legislation that Congress must—and will—pass.

Our planet cannot wait any longer for lower emissions from cars and power plants, American workers cannot wait any longer for clean energy jobs, and our economy cannot wait any longer for the technological innovations and improved efficiency that will lay the groundwork for lasting, sustainable prosperity. Confirming Regina McCarthy will let her get to work cleaning up our environment, and we in the Senate will begin the work of passing a bill that makes polluters pay, creates clean energy jobs, and revives our economy.

#### SRI LANKA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, last month Sri Lanka saw an end to the longstanding military conflict between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the LTTE, and the Sri Lankan Government. In the immediate days that followed the end of fighting, President Mahinda Rajapaksa delivered a speech to his nation’s parliament which formally marked the conclusion of an armed conflict that has escalated since January, but stretches back over 26 years.

This tragic war has claimed the lives of over 70,000 Sri Lankans, displaced hundreds of thousands, and seen systematic and brutal atrocities committed by both sides. Over the last 5 months, as the conflict intensified, it drew increasing and unprecedented attention from the international community. Nevertheless, obtaining a clear picture of this conflict, especially the situation of the estimated 290,000 peo-

ple living in internally displaced persons camps, has been obscured by the Sri Lankan Government’s severe restrictions on access for media, international observers, and humanitarian aid workers. If we are to see a sustainable solution to this conflict over the long term, it is vital that the Sri Lankan Government remove these restrictions now and allow access to all independent actors.

I was pleased that President Rajapaksa acknowledged that Sri Lanka must not accept a military solution as the ultimate solution. As we have seen in conflicts around the world, a military ceasefire will not hold if the underlying causes that led to this conflict are not addressed. The fundamental grievances of the Tamil minority have been overshadowed, distorted, and in some cases silenced by the severe tactics of the LTTE, who since 1997 have been designated by the United States as a terrorist organization. The LTTE claimed to be the voice of the Tamil people, and yet their commitment to both indiscriminate and targeted violence, as well as reports from the last days of fighting that they used Tamil civilians as human shields, would indicate otherwise. If we are to see legitimate reconciliation in Sri Lanka, the grievances of the Tamil minority must be seen as distinct from the violence of the LTTE and addressed thoroughly and justly.

I urge President Rajapaksa to take steps now to demonstrate a serious commitment to a political solution, the rule of law, and most importantly, to genuinely addressing the needs of the Tamil people. At the same time, in proportion to the passion and effort with which the world’s diplomats have demanded peace and respect for civilians throughout this conflict, donor countries must remain actively engaged and dedicated to helping bring about a lasting resolution to this decades-old conflict.

I am especially concerned about issues surrounding resettlement. In the wake of this conflict, land mines line those roads which still exist and cover farmers’ fields in northern Sri Lanka. Schools, hospitals, roads, homes, and businesses have been damaged and in some cases completely destroyed. Some 290,000 internally displaced people languish in squalid humanitarian camps the safe and voluntary return of whom must be a top priority for postconflict recovery. The Sri Lankan Government must not shirk its responsibility to help these people return to their homes swiftly and safely. The international community, too, can provide assistance to help these people return home safely or seek other lasting solutions. The U.S. government should join with its international partners to coordinate demining efforts, work with the Sri Lankan government to develop and rebuild infrastructure, and ensure that those who have been displaced are able to reclaim the land that is rightfully theirs.

These events are critical steps in the right direction in a long and complicated history. If we seek to address this conflict comprehensively, we must learn from past setbacks and help identify new opportunities for the people of Sri Lanka. It will not be easy, but on behalf of all the innocent civilians whose lives have been caught in the crossfire of this conflict, we must support this opportunity to finally achieve lasting and long awaited peace in Sri Lanka.

#### U.N. KENYA REPORT

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, this week the U.N. Special Rapporteur, Mr. Philip Alston, has released his final report on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions in Kenya. His report states that, despite significant investigative work, no concrete steps have been taken to prosecute perpetrators of the violence after Kenya’s December 2007 election. It also finds that both the Sabaot Land Defense Forces—SLDF—and the Kenyan government’s security forces engaged in widespread brutality in Mount Elgon, including torture and unlawful killings. These alleged abuses have not been seriously investigated by the police or the military. Finally, the report concludes that the police in Kenya continue to carry out extrajudicial killings and that death squads continue to exist within the police to assassinate high-profile suspected criminals.

The report makes a number of detailed recommendations for how Kenya can address these problems, beginning with the replacement of the existing police commissioner and a clear public order that extrajudicial killings will not be tolerated, then followed by a comprehensive reform of the police. In addition, the report calls for the attorney general to resign and for the Kenyan government to take steps to reduce corruption and incompetence in the judiciary. With regard to the post-election violence, the report calls for the Kenyan government to establish a special tribunal to seek accountability for persons bearing the greatest responsibility for the violence after the elections. And with regard to the killings in Mount Elgon, the report calls on the government to immediately set up an independent commission to investigate human rights abuses, including those committed by the SLDF.

I urge the Obama administration to issue a strong response to the release of the Special Rapporteur’s final report and press for the implementation of these recommendations. I was pleased that Assistant Secretary Carson traveled earlier this month to Nairobi as part of his first trip to Africa following his confirmation. He met with government leaders there and delivered a strong message of concern. This was an important step. It must now be followed by concrete actions that both support reforms and press for individuals found guilty of killings and