

petroleum exports by penalizing those who buy Syrian oil or invest in its energy sector—an approach Congress has supported in the past against Iran.

I urge others to support this legislation and for the Congress to pass it expeditiously.

And when the crackdown in Syria began, I joined Senators LIEBERMAN, MCCAIN, CARDIN, KYL and at least 20 others on a Senate resolution condemning the violence. I understand that Senator PAUL has had a hold on that resolution for a number of months. I call on Senator PAUL to work with us on his concerns in a timely manner so we can move forward putting the Senate on record about these tragic events in Syria.

There is more still the international community can do.

Russia, China, India, Brazil and South Africa are still blocking a United Nations Security Council resolution that could impose more sweeping international sanctions on Syria. That some of these countries have emerged from decades under their own repressive regimes, only to sit silently as Assad slaughters his own people is extremely troubling.

Russia and China should also pledge not to purchase any surplus Syrian oil which is used by Assad to pay off his enablers and security henchmen.

Human rights monitors, humanitarian workers, and journalists must be allowed in the country.

And the International Criminal Court should look into indicting President Assad on war crimes.

This administration has shown great skill and diplomacy in navigating the turbulent calls for change in the Middle East.

These are demands from everyday people for a better life, for a chance to freely choose one's government, and to see hope and dignity for one's children.

The people of Syria should know that the rest of the world is watching and supporting their aspirations for freedom.

Saturday night in a suburb of Chicago I had a meeting with about 30 Syrian Americans, and we spoke at great length about the situation in the country of their birth. Many of them still have relatives, family, and friends, in Syria, and they are following on YouTube and through the international media the events of the day. They showed me on one of the computers nearby some of the YouTube footage which showed the Syrian security forces literally shooting a man dead, point blank. You could see him lying in the street, and you could see the blood flowing from his body.

To suggest that these peaceful protesters are anything else is to misstate the obvious. These people, by and large, in the streets of Syria are asking for the same thing that was asked for across the Middle East. They are asking for a chance for reform, for change, for self rule.

I promised my friends and people I represent in Illinois who have such

strong feelings about Syria that I would do my best when I returned to Washington this week. This floor statement is just the beginning.

A few moments ago, I got off the telephone, having had a phone conversation with Ambassador Ford, who is in Damascus. He has done an exceptional job for our country. He has risked his life to let those who are protesting peacefully know that the United States is in their corner. We talked about the situation on the ground. He is a man of great talent and experience in the Middle East, and he analyzed all the different forces at work.

We know that Iran is, in fact, the major supporter and promoter of Assad and his repressive regime. We know, as well, that these five countries in the United Nations—Russia, India, China, Brazil, and South Africa—are stopping the United Nations action when it comes to Syria. I find it hard to imagine how some of these countries, in light of their own history, could ignore the obvious: the killing of innocent people in the streets of Syria. It cannot be tolerated, should not be condoned, and should not be protected by their veto in the United Nations.

I am going to work with President Obama and this administration and my friends in Congress on both sides of the aisle to let the people of Syria know that what is happening there has not been ignored by the U.S. Congress. I hope Senator RAND PAUL of Kentucky will at least lift his hold on bipartisan legislation which we have pending here which will express that sentiment in the strongest of terms.

The people of Syria deserve that message, to know that the people of the United States, through their elected representatives in the Senate, understand their plight, stand behind them, and will work to bring justice to their country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### SOUTH BOSTON VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I rise to express my congratulations and best wishes to the people of South Boston,

MA, as they honor their community's long tradition of service to country on the 30th anniversary of the South Boston Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Thirty years ago, on September 13, 1981, the people of South Boston, led by their own citizens who had served in the Vietnam war, became one of the first communities in the United States to build and dedicate a permanent memorial in honor of those who had given their lives in Vietnam. I was privileged to be a speaker at the original dedication of the memorial, and I am honored to be returning to South Boston this year in order to once again pay tribute to those who served.

It is difficult for many of the generation that followed us to understand how bitterly our country had been divided by that war and how long it took to overcome if not resolve the divisions, often along class lines, that were left in its wake. I do not seek to reopen those wounds today, but it should not be forgotten that 25 young men from this solidly working-class community gave their lives in Vietnam, while Harvard College, located nearby on the far banks of the River Charles, lost a total of 12 out of the 11 classes from 1962 to 1972.

In building this memorial, the people of South Boston took it upon themselves to honor their own, and in so doing they reignited the spirit of service to country, not only here in Boston but elsewhere across our country. It was built through the dedication of friends and neighbors, acting together to honor and remember the service and sacrifice of those they knew and loved.

Many veterans from this community took strong roles in bringing the memorial to fruition, but I would like to extend a special recognition to Tommy Lyons, a Marine Corps veteran of Vietnam, who not only provided spirited and determined leadership on this Memorial but also went on to found the Semper Fidelis Society in Boston, which every November brings together more than 1,000 marines of all ages and wars for the most well-attended veterans' lunch in America.

Mr. President, 25 names are engraved on the South Boston memorial—all of them "Southie Boys," 15 of them marines, 9 soldiers, 1 airman. One of them was a lieutenant; the other 24 were enlisted men. All of them represent the best of citizen service, the willingness to put one's life on the line on behalf of our country.

In closing, I ask that the names of those inscribed on the memorial be printed below:

Joseph J. Agri, USMC  
Charles A. Bazzinotti, USA  
Richard J. Borovick, USA  
John C. Calhoun, USMC  
John H. Cole, USMC  
Paul M. Daley, USA  
Ronald L. Delverde, USMC  
Joseph F. Desmond, USMC  
Joseph W. Dunn, USMC  
Devon M. Enman, USA  
Gene D. Grover, USMC  
Frank C. Hubicsak, USA