

from the Chibok School whose whereabouts remain unknown.

Over 74,000 Nigerians are refugees in Cameroon, another 100,000 refugees are in the area. The global refugee trends are indeed alarming. The international assistance being provided is not keeping pace with the scale of the problem. For example, almost halfway through 2015, the United Nation's humanitarian appeal for Syria is only 20 percent funded. Yet, in the spirit of World Refugee Day, we must redouble our efforts to prevent conflicts that force families to flee their homes, villages, and cities. We must also then create the conditions to get these refugees safely back home.

First, we need to ask ourselves hard questions about how we can increase the effectiveness of the assistance we provide. Most refugees live in urban areas, not in traditional refugee camps. Refugees who live in cities face unique vulnerabilities, which must change how international assistance is now being given. Moreover, protracted crises are the new normal. Seventy-five percent of the world refugees are caught in long-term crisis situations, with many refugees displaced for an average of 17 years. We need to use our humanitarian and development dollars more skillfully so we are providing durable solutions to chronic vulnerabilities.

Second, the international community must get serious about protecting the most vulnerable refugees: women and children. Women are facing horrible threats in conflicts across the globe, where rape and sexual assault are being used as weapons of war, and as vulnerable refugees they continue to be targets of gender-based violence. Moreover, children now make up half of all refugees worldwide. We must do more to protect them from sexual exploitation and abuse, recruitment as child soldiers, and early marriages. The United Nations Population Fund, Mercy Corps, the International Rescue Committee, and Catholic Relief Services know how to provide targeted support and protection to women and children refugees, but we in the international community must fund them adequately to do the job.

Third, we must strengthen the capacity of U.N. peacekeeping. As David Miliband, former British Foreign Secretary, now head of the International Rescue Committee noted:

At a time of cuts in defense budgets, new and asymmetric threats, and record numbers of people fleeing conflict, the case of strengthened and more fairly shared UN peacekeeping is overwhelming. Peacekeepers, properly resourced and led, have never been more needed and the consequences of inaction never more evident.

Finally, we must do more to hold accountable the leaders who are responsible for mass humanitarian atrocities. The U.N. Commissioner for Refugees recently commented that he continues to be shocked by the indifference of those who carry the political responsi-

bility for millions of people being uprooted from their homes. They accept forced displacement, with an impact on individuals, on countries, communities, and entire regions, as normal collateral damage of the wars they lead.

They act with the conviction that humanitarian workers will come and pick up the pieces. It is clear the international humanitarian community can no longer stanch the human misery brought on by this callous indifference and criminal leadership. The international community must hold those responsible accountable, those who break all the rules in pursuit of their war aims.

To that end, it was a grave mistake that between October 2011 and July 2012, Russia and China vetoed three Security Council resolutions which were designed to hold the Syrian Government to account for its mass atrocities. It was also unfortunate that Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir was allowed to depart South Africa earlier this week without being detained again, escaping an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court, where he would be on trial for crimes against humanity in Darfur.

In closing, we must recognize that as these conflicts proliferate, no corner of the world will be left unaffected. On World Refugee Day, we recognize that every person fleeing his or her home deserves compassion and help and to live in safety and dignity. We must recommit to work smarter and harder to assist the world's most vulnerable people.

Next year on this day, I want to stand before the Senate again and speak of the progress we have made and the lives we have saved by our collective efforts. History will judge us accordingly if we fail.

#### WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the United States has long been a safe and welcoming home for those fleeing persecution around the world. The refugees and asylum seekers who join our communities help to create new businesses, build more vibrant neighborhoods, and enrich us all. They are also a reminder of our history as a nation of immigrants and our American values of generosity and compassion. Saturday marks World Refugee Day, and to honor it we must renew our commitment to the ideal of America as a beacon of hope for so many who face human rights abuses abroad.

Millions of refugees remain displaced and warehoused in refugee camps in Eastern Africa, Southeast Asia, and other parts of the world. Ongoing political struggles and military conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa are dislocating large populations. Too many are without their families or safe places to find refuge. Some, though far too few, have been able to flee and rebuild their lives.

Peter Keny, one of the "Lost Boys" of South Sudan, is one of those inspiring refugees who escaped a civil war in his home country and has rebuilt his life in my home State of Vermont. He is just one of thousands of refugees Vermonters have welcomed over the years. Peter was 19 when he came to Burlington in 2001, and in the years since he has learned English, completed high school, and is earning a college degree. In describing his voyage to the United States and ultimately to Vermont, Peter told "The Burlington Free Press" that arriving here "was like a dream come true." I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the article, "A Found Man Returns to South Sudan."

I am proud of Vermont's long history of supporting refugees by opening its communities, schools, and homes to those in need. It is not always easy, but it is a powerful example of our belief in the most basic ideals of human dignity and hope, and our commitment to responding to the suffering of others. We are fortunate to have remarkable organizations like the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program leading the effort with its decades of experience and award-winning volunteer program, and the tremendous legal advocacy provided by the Vermont Immigration and Asylum Advocates. The hard work of these and other organizations and the daily welcoming gestures of Vermonters all over the State have made Vermont a role model for the rest of the country.

On this year's World Refugee Day, it is also important to acknowledge that there is more that we as a country can and must do. I remain deeply concerned about the administration's expanded family detention policy. The women and children it is placing in prolonged detention have fled extreme violence and persecution in Central America. They come seeking refuge from three of the most dangerous countries in the world, countries where women and girls face shocking rates of domestic and sexual violence and murder. Here in the United States, we recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, a law we hold out as an example of our commitment to take these crimes seriously and to protect all victims. The ongoing detention of asylum-seeking mothers and children who have made credible claims that they have been victims of these very same crimes is unacceptable. I again urge the administration to end the misguided policy of family detention.

We must also do more to address the humanitarian crisis in Syria. Almost 4 million Syrians are officially recognized as refugees by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The vast majority of these are women and children, including hundreds of thousands of children under the age of 5. The United States traditionally accepts at least 50 percent of resettlement cases from UNHCR. However, we

have accepted only approximately 700 refugees since the beginning of the Syrian conflict, an unacceptably low number.

Congress also plays an important role. Soon I will reintroduce the Refugee Protection Act to improve protections for refugees and asylum seekers and provide additional support and improvement to the national resettlement program and groups such as the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program. This bill, which I have long championed with Representative ZOE LOFGREN, reaffirms the commitments made in ratifying the 1951 Refugee Convention, and will help to restore the United States to its rightful role as a safe and welcoming home for those suffering from persecution around the world.

As we pause to take stock on World Refugee Day, let each of us reflect on what this great country means to those escaping persecution. Let us now and always live by and burnish the light of Lady Liberty's torch, our eternal beacon of hope to those struggling to breathe free.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, June 7, 2015]

A FOUND MAN RETURNS TO SOUTH SUDAN  
(By Zach Despart)

Peter Keny sat on the side of the road in late December as the sun disappeared behind the acacia trees. He had traveled more than 7,000 miles from Burlington, only to be stranded just north of the South Sudanese capital of Juba.

The taxi he hired an hour earlier had broken down, and he was still 50 miles south of his destination, his native village of Kalthok. The driver walked back to Juba five hours earlier and had yet to return.

Keny took another delay in stride, as he had waited to return home since fleeing his country's civil war 25 years earlier. That decade-long journey, forged in tragedy and perseverance, took Keny on a dangerous trek through the Sudanese bush to a series of refugee camps and, finally, to a new start in America.

For most of his life, Keny has straddled two worlds. Each day he reconciles his life of opportunity in the United States with a longing for his war-torn homeland. For years, Keny balanced work to put himself through school and to save for a trip to Kalthok, the village of his brief childhood and keeper of the only memories of his parents.

Exhausted from two flights and a 12-hour bus ride from Uganda, Keny tried to imagine what the reunion would be like. As he peered through darkness toward Kalthok, he wondered if anyone would remember him.

A CHILD OF WAR

Keny was born in Kalthok in 1982, the youngest of four sons. He lived with his mother and father, who like many in the village were sorghum farmers. The Kenys belonged to the Dinka tribe, the largest ethnic group in southern Sudan.

In November 1989, farmers had finished the annual harvest as the wet season came to a close. One afternoon, 6-year-old Keny and a group of boys played on the banks of the White Nile north of Kalthok, as they often did when little else occupied their time.

Around five o'clock, the boys heard gunfire and saw smoke in the village's direction. They rushed toward home but were intercepted by a villager who told them returning was unsafe. The boys, some of whom were Keny's cousins, hid along a riverbank that night. Keny would never again see his parents.

For most of the past 60 years, Sudan has been engulfed in civil war. By 1989, the Second Sudanese Civil War already had raged for six years. When war ended in 2005, 1 million to 2 million people were dead and another 2 million were displaced. Many of those killed or displaced were from the Dinka tribe.

As a child Keny knew about the war, but until that day in 1989, fighting had never come to Kalthok.

"We were all the way to the south of the country, and the government militia did not have a problem with the local people," Keny recalled in a recent interview in Burlington. "There was no tension."

Unable to return to their village, Keny and his friends faced a harrowing journey. The morning after the attack on Kalthok, the boys crossed the river and joined a larger group of refugees who were walking east, away from the fighting. They walked each day until their legs could carry them no farther. Each time the boys stopped to rest, they feared lion attacks and roaming militias, which abducted children to use as soldiers. Keny was shoeless and without a change of clothing. He thought only of how to survive another day.

"The worry was, 'Are you going to make it to the next town?'" he recalled. "You focused on living to the next day, and that's all. There was nothing else you could do."

The Sudanese government was able to distribute grain to fleeing refugees. Keny and others received two cups each, which they made last as long as they could. Keny had nowhere to put the grain, so he wrapped it carefully in his shirt. When the grain ran out, the boys foraged for wild fruit and berries whenever they stopped to rest.

Keny said he was among an estimated 20,000 "Lost Boys of Sudan"—children separated from their parents during the war. As many as half died of disease and starvation during the journey to refugee camps.

After traveling several hundred miles over three months, Keny crossed from Sudan into Ethiopia and settled with others at Dimma, a refugee camp established by the Ethiopian government in 1986 to handle an enormous influx of Sudanese refugees.

Keny remained at Dimma for about a year, until spring 1991, when rebels overthrew Ethiopia's government in a coup. The boys fled back across the border and camped near the Sudanese community of Pakok until 1992, when the United Nations moved thousands of refugees to the newly opened Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. Keny would live there for nine years.

At the Kakuma camp, Keny learned English and went to school daily. He said U.N. staff members encouraged the boys to settle into a routine. But he could not stop thinking about his family. Keny said some of the Lost Boys tried to find their way back to their villages, but he judged the trip back to Kalthok too dangerous. Refugees at Kakuma relied on new arrivals and wounded soldiers seeking care at the U.N. hospital for news about the war.

"The hope was that I would see someone from my village, so I might ask the situation of my family," Keny said. "But no one ever showed up. It was very difficult for me. I never knew whether someone was still there or not."

Keny received a surprise in 1998, when his oldest brother, Riak, found him at the

Kakuma camp. Riak had joined the Sudanese army and had been granted a one-month leave. The brothers had not seen each other in nine years.

"It was one of the best days of my life, after going all that time without seeing my family," Keny said.

But the reunion was bittersweet. Riak brought news Keny had long feared: Their parents and brother were killed in the war, and remaining brother had died of disease. Keny was devastated, but relieved finally to know the fate of his family. Riak tried to lift his spirits.

"He was like, 'Look, this is what it is. Someone has to die for someone to live. If we all had to die, and you lived, that's the best we can do,'" Keny recalled his brother saying.

Riak and Peter spent several weeks together, until the soldier's leave expired and he returned to war. Keny never again saw his brother. Riak died in 2006 after he succumbed to injuries received years earlier.

A NEW LIFE IN AMERICA

In 2001, when he was 19, Keny moved to the U.S. through the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement. He had several cities to choose among, but he picked Burlington because his cousin Abraham Awolich already had settled there. Five others from the Kakuma camp came with him.

For the first time in his life, Keny thought about his future.

"It was like a dream that had come true," he said. "I felt like this is the moment, if I don't have my parents, maybe in the future I'll be able to meet my extended family. Maybe I would be able to do something that my family would remember me."

In the U.S., Keny became proficient in English, earned a high school degree and dreamed of attending college.

Now 32, Keny lives in a small apartment on Front Street in Burlington with three other Lost Boys who immigrated to the U.S. He works as a janitor for the University of Vermont, where he cleans the athletic complex from 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m., five days a week. When school is in session, he attends classes during the day, where he is a decade older than his peers. In the next year and a half, he hopes to complete a degree in community development and applied economics.

Keny is able to cram in only a few hours of sleep before walking uphill to class, but he said he must work to afford tuition if he ever hopes to find a better-paying job.

"It's about being willing," he said, sitting on the front porch of his home. "If I don't do it, I will be stuck here. I just tell myself I have to do it. Otherwise I don't have options."

Ever since moving to the U.S., Keny always hoped return to visit Kalthok. He was able to contact several uncles by telephone in 2002 and remained in touch with relatives regularly. He secured a travel visa in 2006 but was unable to use it, because a trip would have interrupted his studies at community college.

"The biggest fact was that I was struggling with my education," Keny said. "Every time I'd say, 'If I go home while I'm trying to complete this process, I might fall behind.'"

While studying, Keny kept abreast of news back home.

In 2005, civil war ended with a peace agreement that many Sudanese hoped finally would put an end to violence that had torn apart the country for half a century. In 2011, southern Sudanese voted overwhelmingly to break off from the north to form a new nation, South Sudan. The fragile peace collapsed two years later, when South Sudan plunged into civil war. Keny said Kalthok has so far been spared heavy violence, but the community is inundated with refugees again fleeing to the east.

Finally, in 2014, Keny acquired a new visa and was able to raise enough money for the costly trip, which required a stopover in Europe.

#### RETURN TO SOUTH SUDAN

Even after dusk in December, the air was still humid. Keny's driver returned around 7 p.m. with tools, but couldn't fix the car. Keny planned to spend the night on the side of the road and at dawn walk back to Juba. He lay down in the brush, careful not to wrinkle the dress shirt and slacks he had put on for the reunion.

Keny was comforted that he at least had company: Some of his cousins, who met him at the bus station in Juba, agreed to wait until another ride could be arranged.

Around midnight, Keny's fortunes turned. A Somali trader came upon him and agreed to drive him to Kalthok. As he braced himself for potholes that shook the vehicle, Keny tried to piece together fragmented memories of his youth.

"Will I remember anyone in the village? Will I remember the places I used to know? Is life still the same as when I left? All those questions were on my mind," Keny said.

Although the trip was only 55 miles, the roads were in such poor condition that Keny arrived in Kalthok at 5 a.m. It was Christmas morning. He was exhausted and hoped to find somewhere to sleep, but he found the entire village had stayed up waiting for him in the church.

"They were singing and dancing and praying for us, because they heard we had car trouble," Keny said.

At 8 a.m., Kalthok's villagers held a welcome ceremony. Keny said he recognized only a few faces, his maternal and paternal uncles. But all the village elders remembered him.

"They said, 'You look just like you did when you left,'" he recalled. "There was a lot of emotional reaction. They talked about my family, my mom and my dad."

Keny stood at the front of the sanctuary to greet the hundreds of villagers who came to see him. After daybreak they took him around Kalthok, but Keny couldn't pick out any landmarks.

He asked his cousins to take him to a lake with a waterfall he remembered from childhood. From there he looked back toward the village, and memories came back to him. He was able to point out his uncles' houses.

"They said, 'Yes, you now know. You recognize this place,'" Keny said.

Instead of having Keny stay in one of his uncles' homes, villagers arranged for him to sleep in the church. Each evening for the three weeks he was in Kalthok, villagers set up tents and slept outside the church to be closer to their returned son. Keny said many were surprised he came back after settling into a prosperous life in the U.S.

"They thought I would never go back, because I don't have a living parent anymore," Keny said. "But they still believe I belong to the village."

Keny had another reason to return to Kalthok, beside visiting relatives. He wanted to ensure success of the local clinic the Sudan Development Foundation, a Burlington nonprofit, helped fund. The clinic is vital to Kalthok, Keny said. In South Sudan, some villages are more than 100 miles from a hospital. South Sudan's infrastructure is so poor this can mean several days of traveling on foot.

Keny returned to Vermont in mid-January. He said leaving his uncles and cousins was difficult, but his visa expired after 30 days.

#### STRADDLING TWO WORLDS

The son of Kalthok said he is unsure if he will ever move back to South Sudan. Keny wants to help Kalthok and keep the clinic

operational. He worries war will come again to the village.

"I see myself living in two worlds, here and South Sudan," he said. "I want to help my people in any form they need. If I ever get married, maybe I would bring my wife over."

Keny talks to his uncles regularly. A consequence of war, inflation has made staple goods too expensive for many villagers. A drought has raised the prospect of crop failure.

"This month they are supposed to cultivate, but there is no rain," he said, referring to May.

Keny wants to help his countrymen and -women in Vermont. More than 150 Sudanese have resettled in Burlington since the late 1990s, and many have started families here. Keny said the small community rents out local halls and churches to meet and celebrate holidays such as South Sudan's Independence Day.

Keny hopes to help lease or purchase a permanent home to aid local Sudanese in preserving their culture. He said parents are concerned children will forget tribal languages when they speak English outside the home.

Keny reflects on what his life would have been like if he never had the opportunity to immigrate to the United States. If he stayed in South Sudan, Keny believes he likely would have been killed in the war or conscripted into the army. He said he feels blessed to have been given the chance to start a new life here, because so many Sudanese never had that option.

"It gave me the chance to look at the world differently," he said. "I have people who support me, and even though I do not yet have a college degree, I feel I've learned enough to help myself and help my people."

Keny often thinks of his brothers and parents. In their memory, he wants to make the most of opportunities he now has.

"You have this feeling that for the rest of your life, you're going to be living knowing that you don't have someone you'd be taking care of," he said. "I just want to make sure I live a better life, and live it in a peaceful way."

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 205—CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS ON WINNING THE 2015 STANLEY CUP

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 205

Whereas, on June 15, 2015, the Chicago Blackhawks Hockey Team won the Stanley Cup;

Whereas the 2015 Stanley Cup title is the third Stanley Cup title for the Blackhawks in 6 years;

Whereas Blackhawks fans at the "Madhouse on Madison" witnessed Duncan Keith and Patrick Kane score show-stopping goals while goaltender Corey Crawford seemed to stand on his head at times, stopping all 25 shots he faced;

Whereas the Blackhawks won their sixth Stanley Cup, tying the Boston Bruins for fourth on the franchise list of most titles won;

Whereas the Blackhawks joined the National Hockey League (referred to in this preamble as "NHL") in 1926 and have a rich history in the NHL;

Whereas the Blackhawks were 1 of the 6 original teams in the NHL;

Whereas the Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup in 1934, 1938, 1961, 2010, and 2013;

Whereas for the first time in 77 years, the Blackhawks fans saw their heroes win the Stanley Cup on home ice;

Whereas the Blackhawks began the playoffs with a double-overtime victory against the Nashville Predators;

Whereas a goal scored by Brent Seabrook in triple-overtime of Game 4 helped the Blackhawks defeat the Predators in 6 games;

Whereas a sweep of the Minnesota Wild followed in the second round of the playoffs, setting up a showdown with the Anaheim Ducks in the Western Conference Finals;

Whereas the Blackhawks earned triple and double-overtime victories against the Anaheim Ducks in Games 2 and 4 on their way to winning the series in 7 games and clinching a berth in the Stanley Cup Finals;

Whereas the Blackhawks followed a familiar pattern in dropping Games 2 and 3 of the Stanley Cup Finals against the Tampa Bay Lightning, but took a 3-2 series lead into Game 6 on home ice on the night of Monday, June 15, 2015;

Whereas in another close contest, Patrick Kane scored a goal during Game 6 that marked the first time either team led by more than 1 goal in the series;

Whereas it was a great night for fans of the Blackhawks and the culmination of a tremendous team effort;

Whereas Antoine Vermette, acquired at the trade deadline, scored 2 game-winning goals in the Stanley Cup Finals;

Whereas Goaltender Scott Darling, when called upon in relief of Corey Crawford, stood tall in net when his team needed him the most against the Predators;

Whereas Duncan Keith was an "ironman", earning the Conn Smythe Trophy for Most Valuable Player in the playoffs while logging more than 700 minutes of ice time in 23 games;

Whereas Niklas Hjalmarsson blocked shots left and right and seemed to be in the right place at all times;

Whereas General Manager Stan Bowman, Head Coach Joel Quenneville, President John F. McDonough, and owner Rocky Wirtz have put together and led one of the greatest dynasties in NHL history;

Whereas the Stanley Cup returns to the City of Chicago and gives Blackhawks fans across the State of Illinois a chance to celebrate championship hockey;

Whereas the Nashville Predators, Minnesota Wild, Anaheim Ducks, and Tampa Bay Lightning proved to be worthy and honorable adversaries and also deserve recognition: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Chicago Blackhawks on winning the 2015 Stanley Cup;

(2) commends the fans, players, and management of the Tampa Bay Lightning for an outstanding series; and

(3) respectfully directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the 2015 Chicago Blackhawks hockey organization and Blackhawks owner Rocky Wirtz.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 206—CONGRATULATING THE GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS FOR WINNING THE 2015 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 206

Whereas, on June 16, 2015, the Golden State Warriors won their second National Basketball Association (referred to in this preamble