

and severely beat him. He told his lawyer that he saw U.S. Marines at Kandahar "using pages of the Koran to shine their boots," and was brutalized at Guantanamo Bay by Immediate Response Force guards who videotaped themselves attacking him.

The military says the IRF squads are sent into cells to quell disturbances.

Dossari told his lawyers that he had been wrapped in Israeli and U.S. flags during interrogations—a tactic recounted in FBI allegations of abuse at Guantanamo—and said interrogators threatened to send him to countries where he would be tortured.

Dossari maintains that he is not connected to terrorism and does not hate the United States. A fellow detainee said that he saw Dossari at an al Qaeda training camp, his lawyer said.

Colangelo-Bryan is a private New York lawyer with the Center for Constitutional Rights, which represents some of the detainees. The group plans a "Fast for Justice" rally today in Washington to bring attention to the Guantanamo Bay hunger strike.

Colangelo-Bryan said Dossari has tried to commit suicide before. Prolonged solitary confinement has given him almost no contact with others and access to only a Koran and his legal papers.

"In March, he looked at me in the eye and said, 'How can I keep myself from going crazy?'" Colangelo-Bryan said.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I would like to make some general comments about our Defense bill and where we are, so I ask the chairman whether that should be in morning business?

Mr. WARNER. Yes. I thank my distinguished colleague, who is a very valued member of our committee. We are anxious this afternoon to pursue amendments. I will review at an appropriate time what we have achieved so far and what we have planned for the day. But it would be the managers' preference that as you speak to the bill, you do so in morning business because we are on a rather tight time constraint. I thank the Senator for his courtesy.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the chairman.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes in morning business.

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL AND IRAQ

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I believe we have a very fine Armed Services Committee. I have now been honored to serve on that committee for

a number of years. With regard to this year's authorization bill, we have had 35 hearings in the committee or subcommittee. We have undertaken to deal with complex issues facing our military. The chairman and our committee have responded repeatedly to the requests of Democratic Senators to conduct a plethora of hearings dealing with any problems they can find, such as prisoner issues and that kind of thing. We have also conducted those in the Judiciary Committee, in the Intelligence Committee, in the House committees also. We have done quite a lot, frankly, as we have gone forward.

I think it is time for us to give the highest priority, however, to assisting our men and women in uniform, men and women we have sent in harm's way to execute the policy of the United States of America—a policy that was adopted by the House of Representatives, a policy that was adopted by more than a three-fourths vote of this body. A majority of both parties voted to adopt these policies to execute force, to remove Saddam Hussein unless he complied with the U.N. resolutions, and to otherwise carry out our roles and responsibilities.

We have done that, but we need to focus on how to help those soldiers we have sent be successful in creating a good and stable and democratic government in Iraq. It is important for us, it is important for the world, and, most of all, it is important for the people there who have suffered the greatest oppression for so many years.

I think our committees have served well. I think we have worked at these issues well. We have now prepared a bill, a legislation piece, that will empower our military to be able to do their job better. I could not be more pleased than to serve under Chairman WARNER and his leadership in the committee. He works collegially with all members of the Senate in our committee to move legislation along effectively. He has worked hard to get this bill where it is today. Without strong leadership, frankly, I am not sure we would be here today.

We have passed the Defense appropriations bill, but we have not passed the Defense authorization bill. It would be unfortunate if we were not able to do so this year. Hopefully, if our colleagues will cooperate, if they have an amendment and bring it down and present it, they will be able to have all the amendments that have been promised, and we can get something done. We certainly do not need to delay or drag these matters out.

I think this issue of our involvement in Iraq needs to be recalled a bit—how we came to vote. They say—some do—there were lies that led us into this war. But all of us talked about this possible conflict for months—months. We knew it was coming. The President talked about it. We talked about it openly on the floor.

In fact, in the 1990s, when President Clinton was President, we voted and es-

tablished a policy for the United States of America. That policy was that we would effect a regime change in Iraq. And up until these hostilities occurred—for years—American and British planes, enforcing the no-fly zones to keep Saddam Hussein from oppressing the Kurds and the Shiites, flew missions over Iraq, and were fired upon, sometimes on a daily if not weekly basis.

We dropped bombs and missiles on them in retaliation, regularly, for years. In fact, we were in a state of hostility because Saddam Hussein had failed to comply with the agreements he made with the United Nations in 1991 when he was kicked out of Kuwait after he had invaded his neighbor—a peaceful, decent member of the world community.

He attacked them to seize their oil and to increase his power. We had to create a world coalition to give him a demand to remove himself from Kuwait. He refused to do so, and GEN Norman Schwarzkopf led the coalition forces that defeated his army and removed him from Kuwait. He made agreements so we would not continue marching on to Baghdad to get our hands around his neck. He made these commitments to the U.N. and agreements were reached. He did not comply with them. He was in violation of 16 different resolutions of the United Nations.

So all that was there. Also, 9/11 had occurred. And we knew he was violating the Oil-for-Food Program—a program that was set up to allow him to sell oil, which was being embargoed because of his violation of the rules and regulations of the U.N., and it allowed him to do that if the money would be utilized to take care of food and medicines for the people of Iraq because we wanted to help them.

I have been to Iraq three times. I know the chairman has been there numerous times. You can see the palaces he built with that money that was supposed to feed his people. We know he was reconstituting his military. He declared he had been the victor in that war, not the loser. It was clear he was reconstituting his military power because he desired and had not given up his fantasy ambition to dominate the Middle East.

These were the forces that were at work. These were strategic realities that occurred at that time. The Economist magazine wrote an editorial not long before we voted, and it talked about how the embargo was failing, how, in fact, the embargo was really hurting the people of Iraq more than it was hurting Saddam Hussein, but that it was falling apart; that Saddam Hussein had a systematic plan to break the embargo, and nations, such as France and others, were working behind the scenes to undermine the effect of that embargo, and that if we did not do something pretty soon, he would be unleashed again. They said the question simply is, Do we turn him loose or do