

community by community and neighborhood by neighborhood. USIP has focused on preventing sectarian violence at the local level, developing leaders in schools, universities, government, and civil society, promoting the rule of law, engaging women in public life, and increasing regional stability. All this with a tiny staff, only three USIP staff members and eight Iraqi staffers.

Despite the scarcity of resources, 120 Iraqis have been trained to be reconciliation facilitators. They will go into communities to help to work towards real solutions, making neighborhoods safer, promoting transparency and accountability, and so much more. The work they do is amazing and it is awe inspiring.

Sadly, the resources available are meager in comparison to what we are spending to wage war. That is why it is time to bring our troops and private contractors home, to give Iraq back to the Iraqi people. And that is why I, along with my colleague from Connecticut, CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, introduced H.R. 5925, International Partnership for Reconciliation in Iraq Act of 2008. This legislation will ensure that USIP will have the funding and support it needs to continue and to expand.

I urge all of my colleagues to do something: Cosponsor the bill, H.R. 5925, so that we can work with the Iraqi people, so we can work within the international community, and we can reconcile that area. I urge you to cosponsor H.R. 5925. Enough talking about the problem. It is time to do something.

□ 1815

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RAPE OF A LITTLE GIRL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, she was 8 years old. She was asleep in her own room, in her bed dreaming about whatever little girls dream about. She thought she was safe in her home. Suddenly she was awakened by the demon from the night. Patrick Kennedy of Louisiana was on top of her, having his way with her, this petite little angel. Kennedy was someone the little girl supposedly could trust; after all, he was her stepfather.

This little girl was raped. So violent was the rape she fainted and the next thing she remembered she woke up in an ambulance speeding to Children's Hospital.

Official court records state, "When police arrived, they found the victim

on her bed wearing a T-shirt and wrapped in a bloody blanket. She was bleeding profusely from the vaginal area. The victim was transported to Children's Hospital. An expert in pediatric forensic medicine testified that the victim's injuries were the most severe he had ever seen from a sexual assault in his years of practice. A laceration to the left wall of the vagina separated her cervix from the back of her vagina, causing her rectum to protrude into the vaginal structure. The injuries required her to have emergency surgery."

The little girl survived this attack by the barbarian and lives, even though she has been sentenced to a life of mental torture, physical pain and emotional trauma that she may not ever recover from. Her physical scars will never disappear.

The child rapist was tried under Louisiana's law that specifically allows for the death penalty for criminals that choose to rape the most innocent among us, children. The law was passed by the legislature, signed by the Governor and is the wish of the people of Louisiana. A jury of 12 citizens heard the facts and they all agreed that Kennedy should die for his decision to rape his daughter. Several other states, including Texas, have the death penalty as a possible punishment for child rapists.

This case has been reviewed by numerous courts, and has taken 5 years to reach our Supreme Court.

In a decision this week by Justice Anthony Kennedy—no relation—the Supreme Court said the Louisiana law is just too severe and overruled the will of the people of Louisiana and a unanimous jury when he imposed his own moral code saying no one can be executed under these circumstances unless the villain also kills the child, otherwise it is a violation of the cruel and unusual provision of the United States Constitution.

Although the jury was unanimous in ordering the death penalty, the Supreme Court split in its decision 5-4 with the majority siding with the evil-doer.

Justice Kennedy focused on the fact that the victim survived the assault as the reason not to execute the rapist. In other words, the defendant got a break because the little girl had the will to survive.

When I was on the trial bench in Texas, I had a rape victim once tell me that rape was a fate worse than death. In the eyes of this little girl, she probably agrees.

When the "cruel and unusual" phrase was put in the Constitution, it was put there and based on constitutional history to outlaw torture and maiming of criminals. As history reflects, States decided what was appropriate punishment based upon these guidelines.

The five justices who sided with the rapist don't seem to have lived in the real world or have real life experiences. They don't seem to provide justice for

victims, only leniency for criminal defendants.

I spent 22 years on the felony trial bench in Texas and heard over 20,000 cases. The Constitution was the basis for every decision I made. I saw those charged with the worst acts people can commit, and I saw the brutalized victims of crime. I only mention this experience because trial judges see the world as it really is, not how we wish and hope it to be. Trial judges see real people every day.

Unfortunately, eight of our nine Supreme Court justices do not have the benefit of this experience and have never been a trial judge and seen the effects of crime on people. They have spent much of their time in elite ivory palaces as law school professors and appellate judges removed from the world, second-guessing legislatures, trial judges and juries.

I doubt if Justice Kennedy has ever been to Louisiana or talked to a rape victim or a rapist, or a jury, for that matter. Now Justice Kennedy says the verdict of death is just too cruel and unusual for us that live in a sophisticated society to allow. His ruling is a misinterpretation of the Constitution.

Justice Alito said in his dissent that the death penalty laws should be allowed for child rape "if they reflect society's evolving standards of decency." The State of Louisiana set the evolving standard for child rapists in Louisiana, and said leave our children alone or face the death penalty.

Society's standard was trumped by five black-robed justices who want it their way. They are wrong.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WHO WILL SAVE ZIMBABWE?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, we are about to see the world sit by silently, not silently perhaps, but ineffectively, and allow one of the most outrageous abuses of human rights that we have seen in a long time to go forward.

The president of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, is engaging in a pattern of oppression and tyranny and thugery and despicable conduct towards his own people. He lost a preliminary election for the presidency despite every effort he could make to rig the election. Rather than allow the second round to go forward, he has ramped up the terror to the point where the man who got more votes than he in the first round understandably said he wouldn't participate in a run-off election which

would not only be a fraud but which has already led to the murder and abuse of many innocent people.

Robert Rotberg, a very distinguished scholar of Africa, wrote an article that was published in yesterday's Boston Globe. The headline is, "Who will have the courage to save Zimbabwe?"

He starts with a little history. He writes, "After Idi Amin terrorized and killed his own Ugandans throughout the 1970s, President Julius Nyerere of neighboring Tanzania finally sent his army across the border to end the mayhem and restore stability. Who will now do the same for beleaguered Zimbabwe? Who will remove despotic Robert Mugabe from his besmirched and exposed presidency?"

He is not calling for an army to go in, although there is certainly far stronger justification for an army to go there than a lot of places armies have been sent recently, but he has a program which he believes could be helpful. But as he points out, it has to be African nations that do this.

This is a situation given the colonial history where the United States and Britain and France and others would not have the moral authority to act. But Africans should.

Madam Speaker, I led a congressional delegation to Africa in April, and I was honored to be in the presence of the current president of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, a man who was one of the leaders in overturning one of the worst oppressions we have seen, apartheid in South Africa. I was honored to be in his presence. I was delighted when he presented a very high honor from South Africa to our colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

But I have felt terrible disappointment at President Mbeki's passivity in the face of the terrible repudiation of democracy by President Mugabe. I wish that President Mbeki would have understood the right of the people of Zimbabwe to receive the same kind of sympathy and help that many of us tried to extend to the people of South Africa when they were victimized.

I will include for the RECORD the article by Mr. Rotberg making an argument for an African initiative to protect the people of Zimbabwe from the tyrant, the degenerating tyrant who so viciously oppresses them.

Mr. Rotberg closes with this: "Zimbabwe is in shambles. The United States and Britain would doubtless like to act unilaterally, but dare not. Only Africans and the U.N. have unquestioned moral authority." And he notes here that the former Secretary General Kofi Annan did a great job when Kenya had troubles and helped to pacify and restore democracy and stability to Kenya. So he says, "Only Africa and the United Nations have unquestioned moral authority. Which African leaders will now emulate Nyerere's profile of courage in Zimbabwe's dire time of need?"

As one who has strongly supported the rights of the people of Africa to be

free from colonialism, one who has strongly supported the need to provide the appropriate economic support so we can seriously diminish poverty, as a great admirer of President Mbeki and his colleagues, I implore them to save the good name of African democracy. And I understand the difficulty, and they certainly aren't the ones perpetrating this. But if the world, if Africa allows Mugabe to continue this terrible reign of terror, it will be a source of shame to us all.

WHO WILL HAVE THE COURAGE TO SAVE
ZIMBABWE?

(By Robert I. Rotberg)

After Idi Amin terrorized and killed his own Ugandans throughout the 1970s, President Julius Nyerere of neighboring Tanzania finally sent his army across the border to end the mayhem and restore stability. Who will now do the same for beleaguered Zimbabwe? Who will remove despotic Robert Mugabe from his besmirched and exposed presidency?

Presidential contender Morgan Tsvangirai's courageous decision to boycott Zimbabwe's runoff election on Friday—after Mugabe's thugs broke up yet another opposition rally by swinging iron bars and sticks at potential Tsvangirai voters—compels the African Union, the UN Security Council, and major powers finally to act. Tsvangirai said that he and his supporters were facing war, not an election, and they would "not be part of that war." Serious UN sanctions are a first step.

Second, since South Africa shows no appetite for an intervention and Tanzania, Botswana, Mozambique, and Zambia—Zimbabwe's neighbors—are unlikely to act militarily without South African agreement an African stained Zimbabwe's tyranny should: demand that Friday's poll be postponed until Africans can patrol the country and oversee a free and fair real election; demand compulsory mediation by former UN secretary general Kofi Annan, who pacified Kenya earlier this year; denounce despotism in Zimbabwe; and ban all Zimbabwean aircraft from flying over neighboring airspaces, thus effectively keeping Mugabe and his henchmen bottled up inside their decaying country. Neighboring countries could also squeeze land-locked Zimbabwe's electricity supplies and slow rail traffic.

Time is short. Mugabe is clearly still intent on ratifying his usurpation of power on Friday. Tsvangirai officially led Mugabe in the initial presidential poll in March. In recent weeks Mugabe's military have unleashed a relentless wave of intimidation against Tsvangirai's Movement for a Democratic Change and its supporters, killing 86, maiming at least 10,000, and assaulting thousands more. Tsvangirai was detained seven times before Sunday and his key deputy was imprisoned last week without trial on a bogus treason charge. Yesterday, the house of another key deputy was trashed and his elderly relatives assaulted.

Unless Africa and the UN act courageously, Mugabe will get away with his brazen attempt to cling brutally to power and impoverish his own people despite broad global contempt.

Mugabe has also refused to summon Parliament, which is dominated by the Movement for Democratic Change and was elected overwhelmingly in March. As a result, many of Mugabe's cabinet ministers and loyalist remain in office, drawing salaries, despite having lost their seats. Several times, Mugabe and close associates have publicly declared that the Movement and Tsvangirai

would never be allowed to take office or govern. "Only God will remove me," Mugabe defiantly declared Monday.

Conditions in Zimbabwe, where more than 80 percent of adults are unemployed and nearly everyone is hungry; where there are startling shortages of staple corn, wheat and bread, sugar, oil, milk, and gasoline; and where brutality is always around the next corner are even more horrific today than they were in Uganda in 1979, when Nyerere invaded. Famously, Mugabe told a BBC interviewer in 1999 that he was "no Idi Amin."

Mugabe's men have also continued to use food as a political weapon, first stopping the supply of grain by international relief agencies and last week physically stealing relief shipments to give to their own supporters. Mugabe's thugs have also harassed British and American diplomats at roadblocks, in one case threatening to burn them alive in their cars.

Zimbabwe's inflation now exceeds 160,000 percent a year. One U.S. dollar buys 4 million Zimbabwe dollars at the unofficial street rate. Mugabe and his close associates exploit differences between official and unofficial exchange rates to prosper while ordinary Zimbabweans go hungry or are attacked.

Zimbabwe is in shambles. The United States and Britain would doubtless like to act unilaterally, but dare not. Only Africans and the UN have unquestioned moral authority. Which African leaders will now emulate Nyerere's profile of courage in Zimbabwe's dire time of need?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CALVERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PHARMACISTS FIRST LINE OF
HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, pharmacies play a critical role in delivering health care in America. Local pharmacists are the first line of defense in recognizing health problems and providing medical advice. Unfortunately, it is becoming more and more difficult to find and retain pharmacists who will practice in rural areas. With the impending retirement of the baby boomer generation, this problem only becomes worse. It is estimated that over the next 20 years, there will be a shortage of 150,000 or more pharmacists nationwide.

We are already experiencing this problem in Kansas. Seven counties in our State do not even have one single pharmacist; and 30 other counties have only one pharmacist in the county.

During my time in Congress, I have advocated for community pharmacies, and I currently co-chair the Congressional Community Pharmacy Caucus.

I was pleased that this week the House chose to address several important issues related to the issue of pharmacists in H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Provider