and to populations of internally displaced persons who remain confined in camps, which should be administered by civilian authorities. These people should be allowed to leave the camps as soon as possible so they can start to rebuild their lives.

As soon as possible, the government needs to begin implementing policies for the devolution of power to provincial councils in the north and east as provided for in Sri Lanka’s Constitution. This and other steps are needed to demonstrate that all Sri Lankans can live without fear and participate freely in the political process. It must address the longstanding, legitimate grievances of the Tamil population so they can finally enjoy the equal rights and opportunities to which they, like other Sri Lankan citizens, are entitled.

There is also the issue of accountability for violations of the laws of war. The LTTE had a long history of flagrant violations of human rights, including kidnappings, extrajudicial killings, disappearances, and deliberately targeting civilians. The Sri Lankan military engaged in similar crimes. Although the Sri Lankan Government prevented access for journalists to the war zone in order to avoid scrutiny of the military’s conduct, video footage was smuggled out. And as the smoke has lifted from the battlefield, there are reports that thousands of Tamil civilians who were trapped in the so-called safe zone perished in the last months of the war. There is abundant evidence that they were deliberately targeted with relentless shelling and aerial bombardments, despite repeated appeals by the international community that they be spared. There are also growing fears of retaliatory attacks against those who criticized such tactics.

The recent decision of the United Nations Human Rights Council rejecting calls by Navi Pillay, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, for an international investigation of these violations is unfortunate but not surprising. Several of the Council’s members routinely arbitrarily imprison and torture political opponents in their own countries. The Sri Lankan Government, which seeks international aid to rebuild, insists that what occurred there is an “internal” matter and that for outsiders to call for an international investigation purloined is an “infringement of sovereignty.” To the contrary, the denial of basic rights and freedoms is a legitimate concern of the international community that they be spared. There are also growing fears of retaliatory attacks against those who criticized such tactics.

This Saturday marks the 65th anniversary of D-day, the day the tide began to turn against totalitarianism in World War II. On that day, Allied forces stormed a Normandy beachhead to claim a foothold on the edge of Nazi-occupied Europe. More than 130,000 Americans sacrificed their lives during the invasion, including 130 Floridians.

As the largest land, air, and sea invasion in history, D-day brought together Allied forces and unprecedented military resources, including more than 150,000 servicemen, 13,000 aircraft, and 5,000 ships. By the day’s end, more than 9,000 Allied warriors had sacrificed life and limb so that others could begin the perilous journey into Europe to defeat the forces commanded by Adolf Hitler.

D-day tested the courage and character of every American involved in the invasion. Like those who came before them, the soldiers who fought that day fought courageously for a freedom the men and women of our military still fight to defend.

Coinciding with the anniversary D-day is the 67th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, another turning point in the war. The battle claimed the lives of thousands. But more than 9,000 American airmen and seamen helped to slow Japan’s advance across the Pacific. America’s forces executed the mission with tremendous skill and helped deliver one of the war’s most decisive and crucial victories.

On these anniversaries, let us remember and recognize the courage of those who sacrificed their lives to restore hope through the liberation of those in occupied territories. Let us honor and thank those veterans that continue to share their unique stories from these historic times. May God bless the men and women of the U.S. military, and continue to bless our great Nation.

Mr. Martinez. Mr. President, this week, we pay tribute to those who fought for freedom’s cause during World War II. Two monumental efforts occurred that resulted in turning the war efforts in favor of the Allied Forces. The first was the Battle of Midway. Each was a demonstration of our nation’s commitment to freedom, a blow against tyranny, and the tremendous sacrifice everyday Americans are willing to make for peace and security.

Mr. Martinez. Mr. President, this week, we pay tribute to those who fought for freedom’s cause during World War II. Two monumental efforts occurred that resulted in turning the war efforts in favor of the Allied Forces. The first was the Battle of Midway. Each was a demonstration of our nation’s commitment to freedom, a blow against tyranny, and the tremendous sacrifice everyday Americans are willing to make for peace and security.

This Saturday marks the 65th anniversary of D-day, the day the tide began to turn against totalitarianism in World War II. On that day, Allied forces stormed a Normandy beachhead to claim a foothold on the edge of Nazi-occupied Europe. More than 130,000 Americans sacrificed their lives during the invasion, including 130 Floridians.

As the largest land, air, and sea invasion in history, D-day brought together Allied forces and unprecedented military resources, including more than 150,000 servicemen, 13,000 aircraft, and 5,000 ships. By the day’s end, more than 9,000 Allied warriors had sacrificed life and limb so that others could begin the perilous journey into Europe to defeat the forces commanded by Adolf Hitler.

D-day tested the courage and character of every American involved in the invasion. Like those who came before them, the soldiers who fought that day fought courageously for a freedom the men and women of our military still fight to defend.

Coinciding with the anniversary D-day is the 67th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, another turning point in the war. The battle claimed the lives of thousands. But more than 9,000 American airmen and seamen helped to slow Japan’s advance across the Pacific. America’s forces executed the mission with tremendous skill and helped deliver one of the war’s most decisive and crucial victories.

On these anniversaries, let us remember and recognize the courage of those who sacrificed their lives to restore hope through the liberation of those in occupied territories. Let us honor and thank those veterans that continue to share their unique stories from these historic times. May God bless the men and women of the U.S. military, and continue to bless our great Nation.

Mr. Martinez. Mr. President, this week, we pay tribute to those who fought for freedom’s cause during World War II. Two monumental efforts occurred that resulted in turning the war efforts in favor of the Allied Forces. The first was the Battle of Midway. Each was a demonstration of our nation’s commitment to freedom, a blow against tyranny, and the tremendous sacrifice everyday Americans are willing to make for peace and security.

This Saturday marks the 65th anniversary of D-day, the day the tide began to turn against totalitarianism in World War II. On that day, Allied forces stormed a Normandy beachhead to claim a foothold on the edge of Nazi-occupied Europe. More than 130,000 Americans sacrificed their lives during the invasion, including 130 Floridians.

As the largest land, air, and sea invasion in history, D-day brought together Allied forces and unprecedented military resources, including more than 150,000 servicemen, 13,000 aircraft, and 5,000 ships. By the day’s end, more than 9,000 Allied warriors had sacrificed life and limb so that others could begin the perilous journey into Europe to defeat the forces commanded by Adolf Hitler.

D-day tested the courage and character of every American involved in the invasion. Like those who came before them, the soldiers who fought that day fought courageously for a freedom the men and women of our military still fight to defend.

Coinciding with the anniversary D-day is the 67th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, another turning point in the war. The battle claimed the lives of thousands. But more than 9,000 American airmen and seamen helped to slow Japan’s advance across the Pacific. America’s forces executed the mission with tremendous skill and helped deliver one of the war’s most decisive and crucial victories.

On these anniversaries, let us remember and recognize the courage of those who sacrificed their lives to restore hope through the liberation of those in occupied territories. Let us honor and thank those veterans that continue to share their unique stories from these historic times. May God bless the men and women of the U.S. military, and continue to bless our great Nation.

Mr. Martinez. Mr. President, this week, we pay tribute to those who fought for freedom’s cause during World War II. Two monumental efforts occurred that resulted in turning the war efforts in favor of the Allied Forces. The first was the Battle of Midway. Each was a demonstration of our nation’s commitment to freedom, a blow against tyranny, and the tremendous sacrifice everyday Americans are willing to make for peace and security.

This Saturday marks the 65th anniversary of D-day, the day the tide began to turn against totalitarianism in World War II. On that day, Allied forces stormed a Normandy beachhead to claim a foothold on the edge of Nazi-occupied Europe. More than 130,000 Americans sacrificed their lives during the invasion, including 130 Floridians.

As the largest land, air, and sea invasion in history, D-day brought together Allied forces and unprecedented military resources, including more than 150,000 servicemen, 13,000 aircraft, and 5,000 ships. By the day’s end, more than 9,000 Allied warriors had sacrificed life and limb so that others could begin the perilous journey into Europe to defeat the forces commanded by Adolf Hitler.

D-day tested the courage and character of every American involved in the invasion. Like those who came before them, the soldiers who fought that day fought courageously for a freedom the men and women of our military still fight to defend.

Coinciding with the anniversary D-day is the 67th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, another turning point in the war. The battle claimed the lives of thousands. But more than 9,000 American airmen and seamen helped to slow Japan’s advance across the Pacific. America’s forces executed the mission with tremendous skill and helped deliver one of the war’s most decisive and crucial victories.

On these anniversaries, let us remember and recognize the courage of those who sacrificed their lives to restore hope through the liberation of those in occupied territories. Let us honor and thank those veterans that continue to share their unique stories from these historic times. May God bless the men and women of the U.S. military, and continue to bless our great Nation.