

END THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE IN
KOSOVO

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the news out of Kosovo concerning the commission of atrocities against Serbs and Gypsies is deeply troubling.

According to a report released on Tuesday by Human Rights Watch "for the province's minorities, and especially the Serb and Roma (Gypsy) populations, as well as some ethnic populations perceived as collaborators or as political opponents of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), these changes have brought fear, uncertainty, and in some cases violence." The report adds that "The intent behind many of the killings and abductions that have occurred in the province since early June appears to be the expulsion of Kosovo's Serb and Roma population rather than a desire for revenge alone."

Mr. President, the massive atrocities committed against the ethnic Albanian population of Kosovo pursuant to Slobodan Milosevic's ethnic cleansing policy have been appropriately condemned by the international community. The United States and our NATO allies have invested a great deal of resources and put their sons and daughters at risk to stop the atrocities and to reverse the ethnic cleansing. But they did not do so to allow the former victims to commit atrocities against or seek to ethnically cleanse the Serbs and Gypsies.

When I visited Kosovo in the first week of July along with Senators REED, LANDRIEU and SESSIONS, we met with Hashim Thaci, political leader of the KLA and Colonel Agim Ceku, the KLA military commander. We condemned the violence being perpetrated against the Serbs and asked them to speak out against the mistreatment of the Serbs. They stated to us they have publicly called for the Serbs to stay and for those who have left to return provided they had not previously committed atrocities.

Mr. President, words are important but deeds are more important. I realize that the KLA is not a highly-disciplined organization and that there are extremists within the KLA who do not answer to either Mr. Thaci or Colonel Ceku. I also realize that not all those who are presently committing atrocities are members of the KLA. But Mr. Thaci and Colonel Ceku and other Albanian leaders must do more to bring an end to the cycle of violence in Kosovo.

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 164,000 Serbs have left Kosovo during the seven weeks since Yugoslav and Serb forces withdrew and KFOR entered Kosovo, and the number continues to rise. The military troops of the NATO-led KFOR are not trained to be policemen and the enforcement of day-to-day law and order is not and should not be their mission. The United Nations has

only deployed about 400 civilian police to Kosovo. The deployment of the international civilian police force to Kosovo must be accelerated. The cycle of violence in Kosovo must stop.

I visited with the ethnic Albanian refugees in the camps in Macedonia and was sickened at their horrific stories of their mistreatment at the hands of the Serbs. I was a strong supporter of the NATO air campaign against Serbia and of the deployment of the NATO-led KFOR. I support the reconstruction of Kosovo and the creation of an autonomous multi-ethnic Kosovo. But none of us, no matter what position we took on other issues involved in NATO's action in Kosovo, can accept criminal acts against Serbs and Gypsies in Kosovo.

President Clinton and the leaders of our NATO allies won the support of their citizens for the NATO air campaign and subsequent peacekeeping mission in part because it was the humane thing to do. Americans and Europeans alike were deeply upset at the plight of the ethnic Albanian refugees. That support will dissipate if the cycle of violence in Kosovo does not stop.

I call on NATO, the United Nations, the leaders of the ethnic Albanian community in Kosovo, particularly Mr. Thaci and Colonel Ceku, and the law abiding citizens of Kosovo, to act and act now to show their rejection of lawlessness and violence. The cycle of violence must stop.

PESTICIDES AND CHILDREN'S
HEALTH

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this week, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the first major steps under the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 to protect children from overexposure to two widely used pesticides. Organophosphate chemicals, such as these two pesticides, kill insects by disrupting nerve impulses. Unfortunately, these chemicals have the same effect on humans, and children are especially vulnerable because of their developing bodies and the high proportion of fruits and vegetables in their diets. Effective protection against these two pesticides is an important step in implementing the Act as Congress intended.

These steps by EPA to comply with the law are critical to ensure the health and safety of the nation's children. These actions are welcome, and EPA must continue to carry out its important mission to assess tolerance levels for pesticides that pose the highest risks to children. Much work remains to be done.

Timely and complete implementation of the Act is essential, but we need to know more to assure that all children are protected from the harmful effects of pesticides. I have asked the General Accounting Office to evaluate

the technologies used to assess immune, reproductive, endocrine, and neurotoxic effects of pesticides on children. GAO will also report on current research on links between pesticides and child health and disease. In particular, I have asked the GAO to evaluate whether the Act is being implemented adequately to protect the health and safety of the nation's children.

Our children are our greatest natural resource. The goal in passing the Act was to set a strong public health standard to protect them, and EPA has a clear responsibility to implement the Act in accord with that standard.

LET'S SEEK BALANCE IN REFUGEE
FUNDING

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to bring my colleagues' attention to the plight of refugees in Africa. Just last week we have been reminded yet again of the disparity in the resources provided to assist those in need on the African continent compared to those in Europe. At a briefing to the U.N. Security Council on July 26, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata outlined some of the desperate problems facing the over 1.5 million refugees the agency currently counts in Africa. These problems are aggravated by a serious shortfall in international funding for UN refugee efforts. By some accounts, only 60% of the UNHCR's \$137 million budget for general programs for Africa has been funded to date. The total UNHCR funding for all of Africa for 1999, including the general program, special programs, and emergencies, is only \$302 million. That compares to \$520 million set aside just for special programs and emergencies for the Former Yugoslavia.

The international response to the refugee crisis in Africa remains woefully inadequate. The situation is made even worse by the disparity between the donations offered to assist European refugees and those offered to support African refugees. As Mrs. Ogata so succinctly noted on July 26, "Undeniably, proximity, strategic interest and extraordinary media focus have played a key role in determining the quality and level of response." While this may explain why Kosovo has received far greater refugee assistance than have the multiple crises in Africa, it can not justify that imbalance. The suffering of a family driven from its home or a child wrenched from its family by war is no less because it happens in Africa, away from the media glare and the familiar sources of conflict in Europe.

While I understand that there are necessary limits to the resources available for the millions of refugees in the world, I believe we should render our precious contribution to humanitarian assistance in a fair and balanced manner. As I have said many times on this