

under investigation, I hope the final report will provide information that can help us understand how this happened.

PFC Mayek was a vibrant young man who loved being outdoors and enjoyed sports. During his senior year at Rock Springs High School, Joseph played split end and cornerback for high school football team. Soon after graduating in 2001, he joined the United States Army. Upon completion of basic training he was assigned to C Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment in Germany.

President Bush recently addressed the Nation to declare victory in the Battle for Iraq. This was a monumental task accomplished by the dedicated people and their families who serve in our Armed Forces. America's men and women who answer the call of service and wear our Nation's uniform deserve respect and recognition for the load that they alone must bear. Our people put everything on the line everyday, and because of these folks, our nation is more secure and remains strong in the face of danger.

We say goodbye to a son, a soldier and an American. Our Nation pays its deepest respect to Private First Class Mayek for his courage, his love of country and his sacrifice, so that we may remain free.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BURMA

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to the gross violations of human and religious rights in Burma. Dr. Salai Tun Than, a University of Wisconsin alumni, who was released over the weekend in Burma, initiated a hunger strike protesting the human and religious rights violations at the prison where he was held. Dr. Tun Than had been serving a 7-year prison sentence in Burma for handing out copies of a petition demanding political reforms.

Dr. Tun Than, 75, has severe health problems that required medical treatment, which he was not granted. The conditions that he and other prisoners endured were violations of international human rights laws. Restrictions on communications between prisoners, unsanitary prison conditions and forced "hooding" as prisoners were transported outside are examples of the violations. As a Christian, Dr. Tun Than also was protesting violations in religious freedom which included not being allowed a Bible or to receive Communion.

During my Senate career I have been an advocate for human rights and religious freedoms for every individual across the globe. I am saddened by the conditions in which Dr. Tun Than and other prisoners in Burma have had to live. It is my hope that the Burmese Government will recognize religious and human rights, not only to their prisoners, but to their general populace as well.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred October 27, 1992, in Sasebo, Japan. Terry M. Helvey, an airman apprentice in the U.S. Navy, and Amn Charles E. Vins beat PO Allen Schindler to death in a public restroom. After spotting Schindler, who was known to be gay, outside a bar, Helvey and Vins followed him into a public restroom so that they could "beat him up," according to Vins. The two brutally kicked and punched Schindler to death on the restroom floor. Helvey and Vins beat Schindler so badly that a Navy pathologist described his injuries as "more consistent with a high-speed automobile accident or low-speed airplane crash."

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

DEVELOPMENTS IN BURUNDI

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to the situation in the Central African country of Burundi, where a remarkable step has been taken to end that country's brutal civil war. Last week, President Pierre Buyoya voluntarily ceded power to Domitien Ndayizeye, who will now lead the country through the second half of a 3-year transitional power-sharing government. This orderly transfer of power, conducted in compliance with the Arusha Accords signed in 2000, is an important symbol of ethnic reconciliation, as a Tutsi President with a Hutu Vice President gives way to a Hutu head of state with a Tutsi Vice President. An African Union force is slated to help provide stability during this transitional period. This is a development to be celebrated, and the United Nations Security Council was right to praise this milestone achievement.

But much more needs to be done. Rather than being satisfied with President Ndayizeye's inauguration, the people of Burundi and the international community should seize on this moment as a catalyst for more energetic and focused efforts to bring Burundi out of crisis. A comprehensive cease-fire among all parties to the conflict is still not in place. Little progress has been made to date toward comprehensively reforming the secu-

rity services to reflect a multiethnic society. Burundi's future will also depend upon increasing respect for basic human rights, ending the climate of impunity in which these rights have been violated, and establishing viable mechanisms for holding those responsible for abuses accountable for their actions. The international community must maintain an engaged policy that both supports these reforms and pressures those who resist them.

Most importantly, the international community and the Burundian leadership must take this opportunity to establish a firm relationship between positive developments in the political sphere and the conditions of the Burundian people, who languish, sometimes in grave and consistent insecurity, and often in desperate humanitarian crisis. Abject poverty, a dramatic decline in primary school enrollment, soaring infant mortality rates, and displacement on a massive scale characterize the situation of Burundian society. If we allow paper agreements and political milestones to remain disconnected from concrete improvements for the people of Burundi, we are only empowering the spoilers in this process, and only encouraging the kind of hideous violence that has become all too common in Central Africa.

Nine years ago Burundi's neighbor erupted in genocide. Ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has cost the lives of millions. Crises spill across borders, poisoning the prospects for progress throughout the region, and creating lucrative opportunities for international criminals. Burundi may be small, but its suffering is great, and its capacity to help or hinder efforts to stabilize a vast swathe of Africa should not be underestimated. We know what the consequences of indifference are; we have seen them in the millions dead, displaced, mourning and grieving. For a brief moment, Burundi has captured global attention. We should not look away again; the stakes are too high.

I yield the floor.

PROTECT ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this child-abduction legislation is important and needed. According to the Justice Department, 2,200 children are reported missing each day. There are approximately 114,600 attempted abductions by strangers every year, and between 3,000 and 5,000 of these attempts are successful.

Each child abduction is a tragedy. Last year, I met with two of my constituents, John and Magi Bish. On June 27, 2000, their daughter Molly Ann Bish, a 16-year-old lifeguard, disappeared from her life-guarding post at Comins Pond in Walden, MA. Molly's family and friends continue to search for her. The Bish family is also working to raise awareness about this important issue. They started the first Missing Children's Day in Massachusetts. They